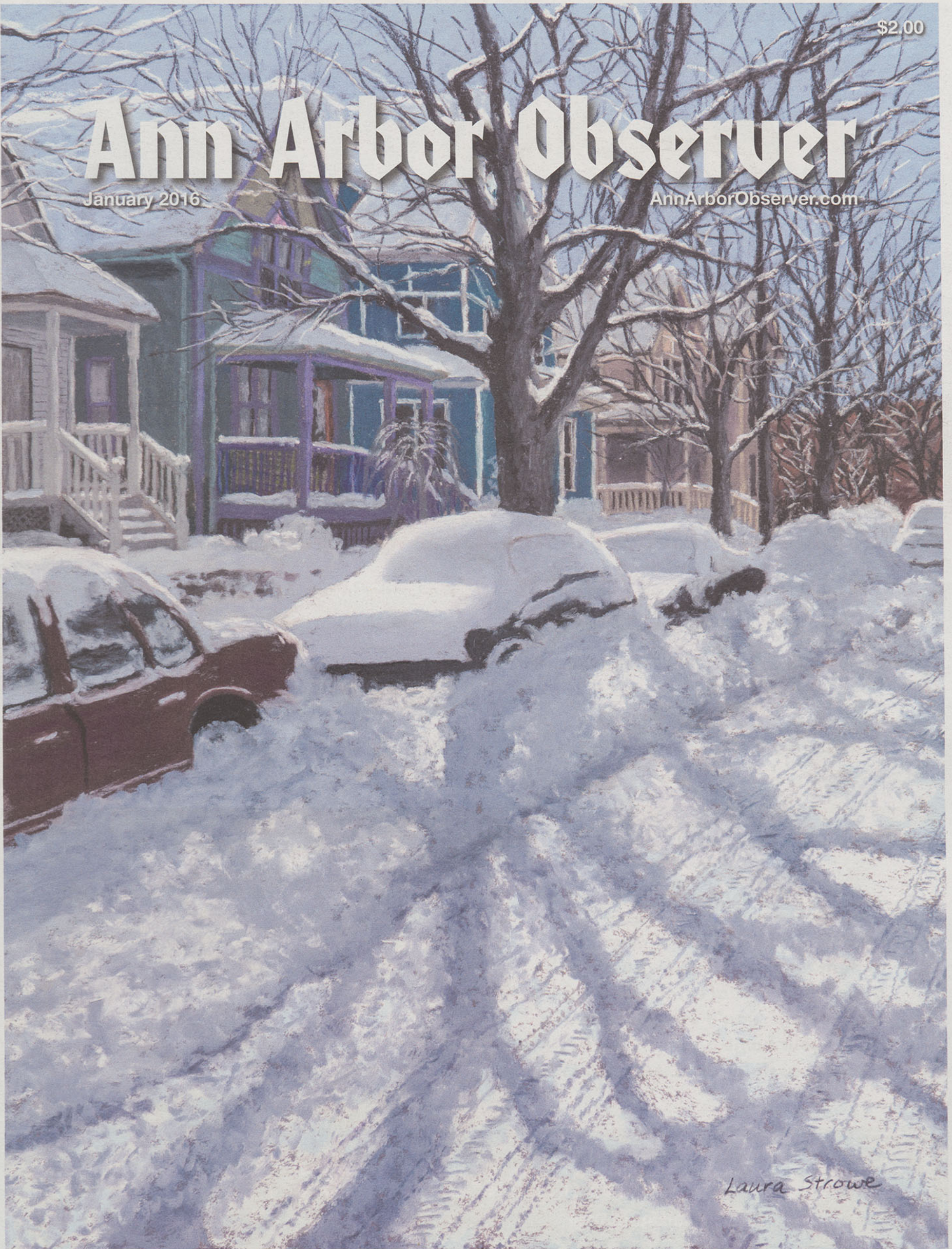


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# Ann Arbor Observer

January 2016

[AnnArborObserver.com](http://AnnArborObserver.com)



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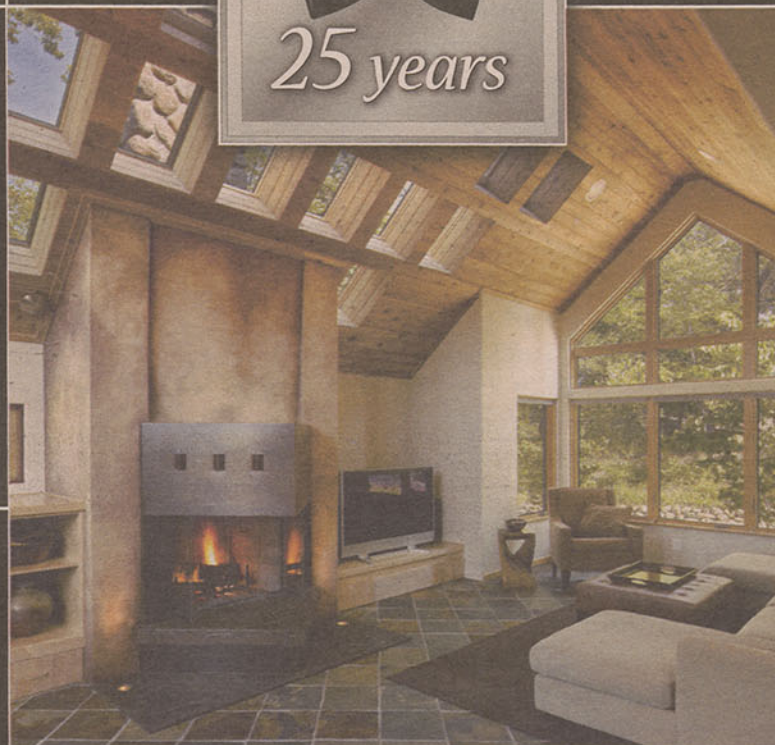


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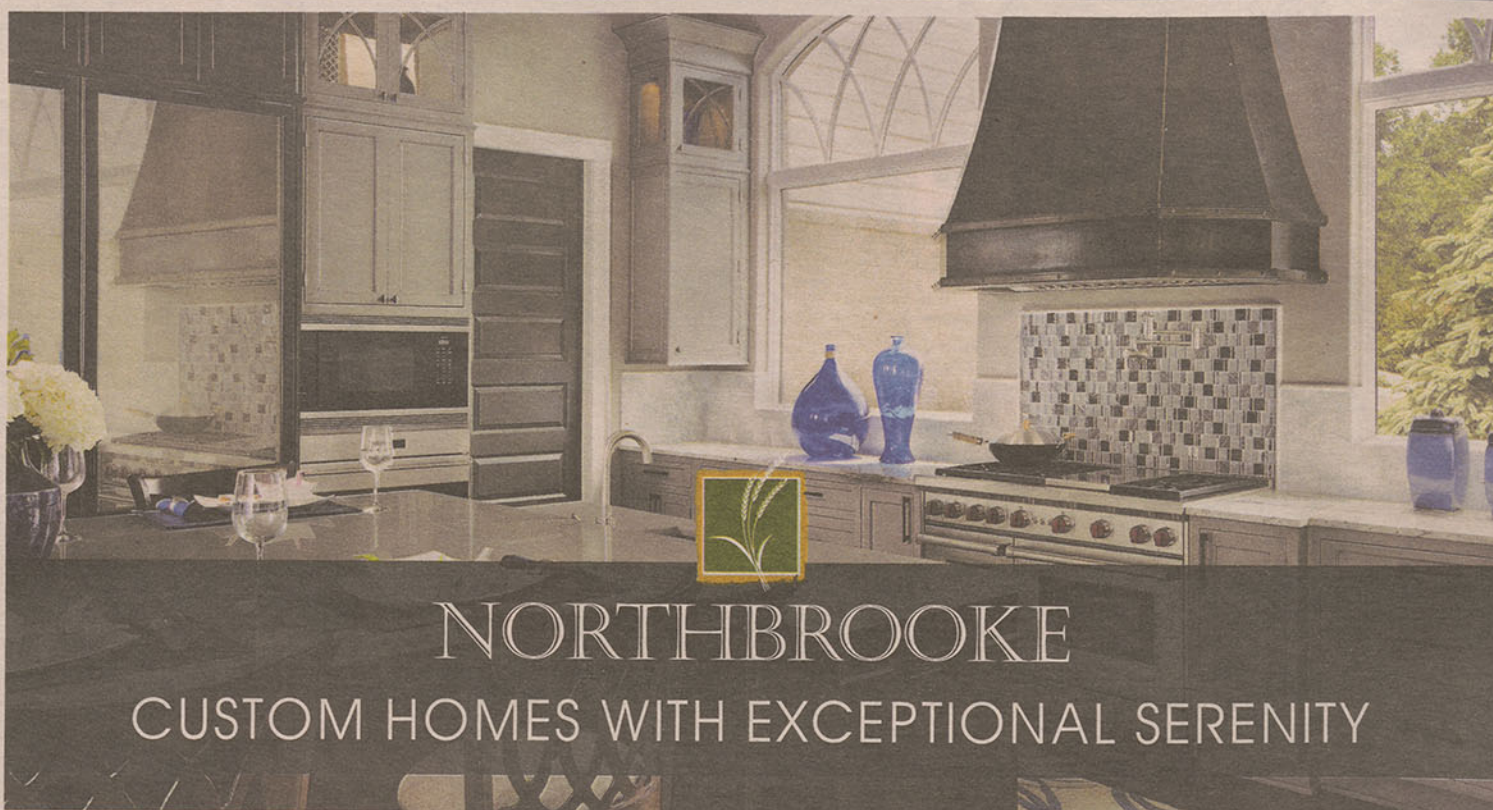
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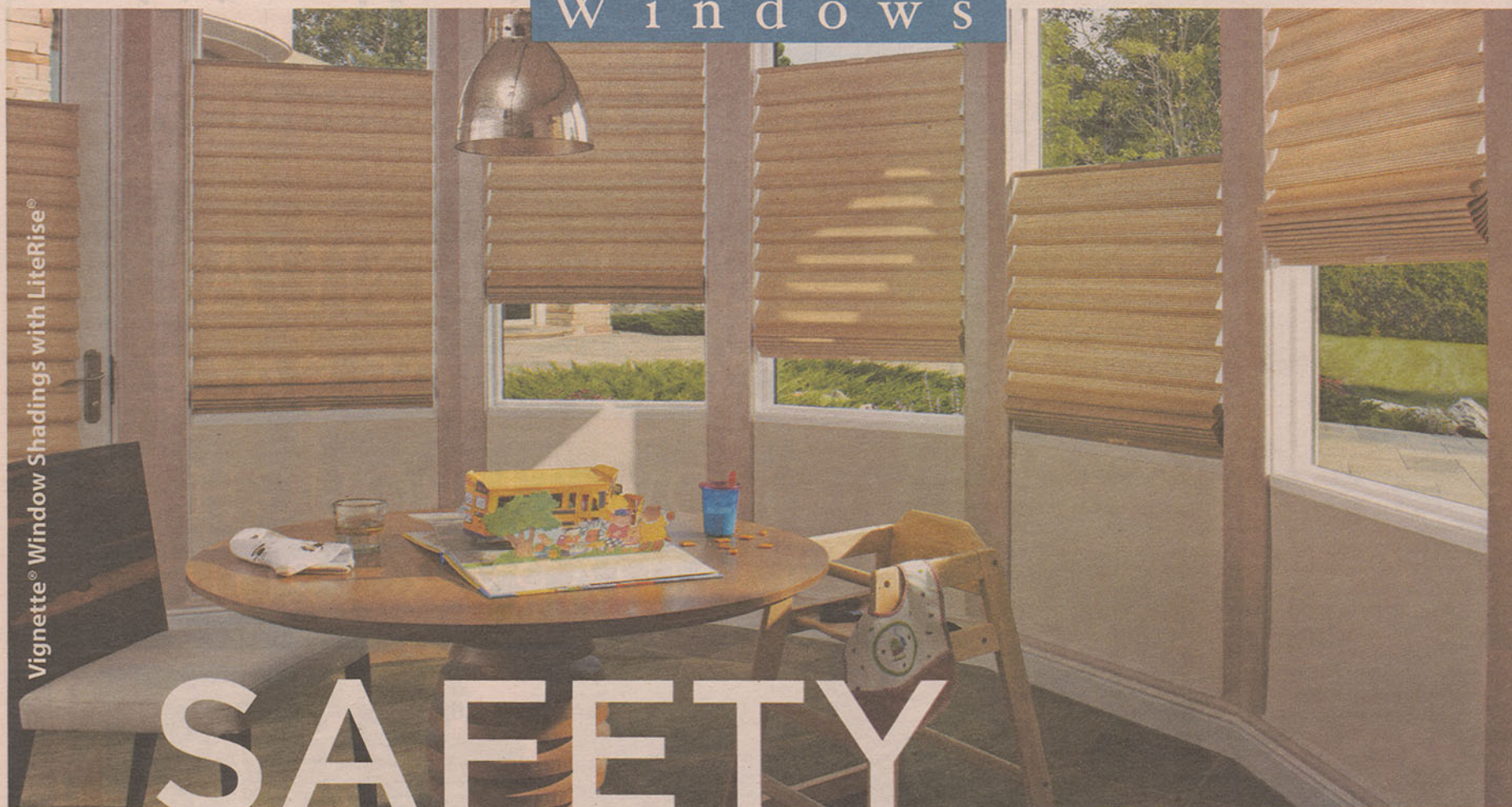
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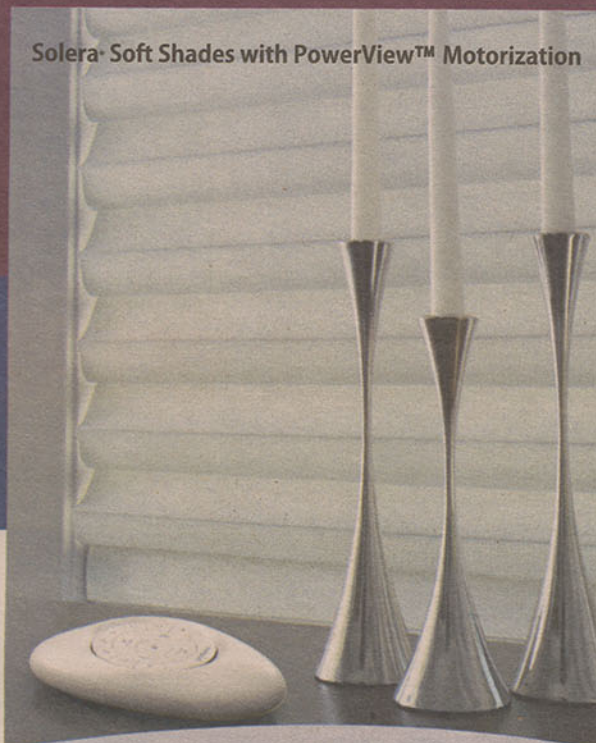


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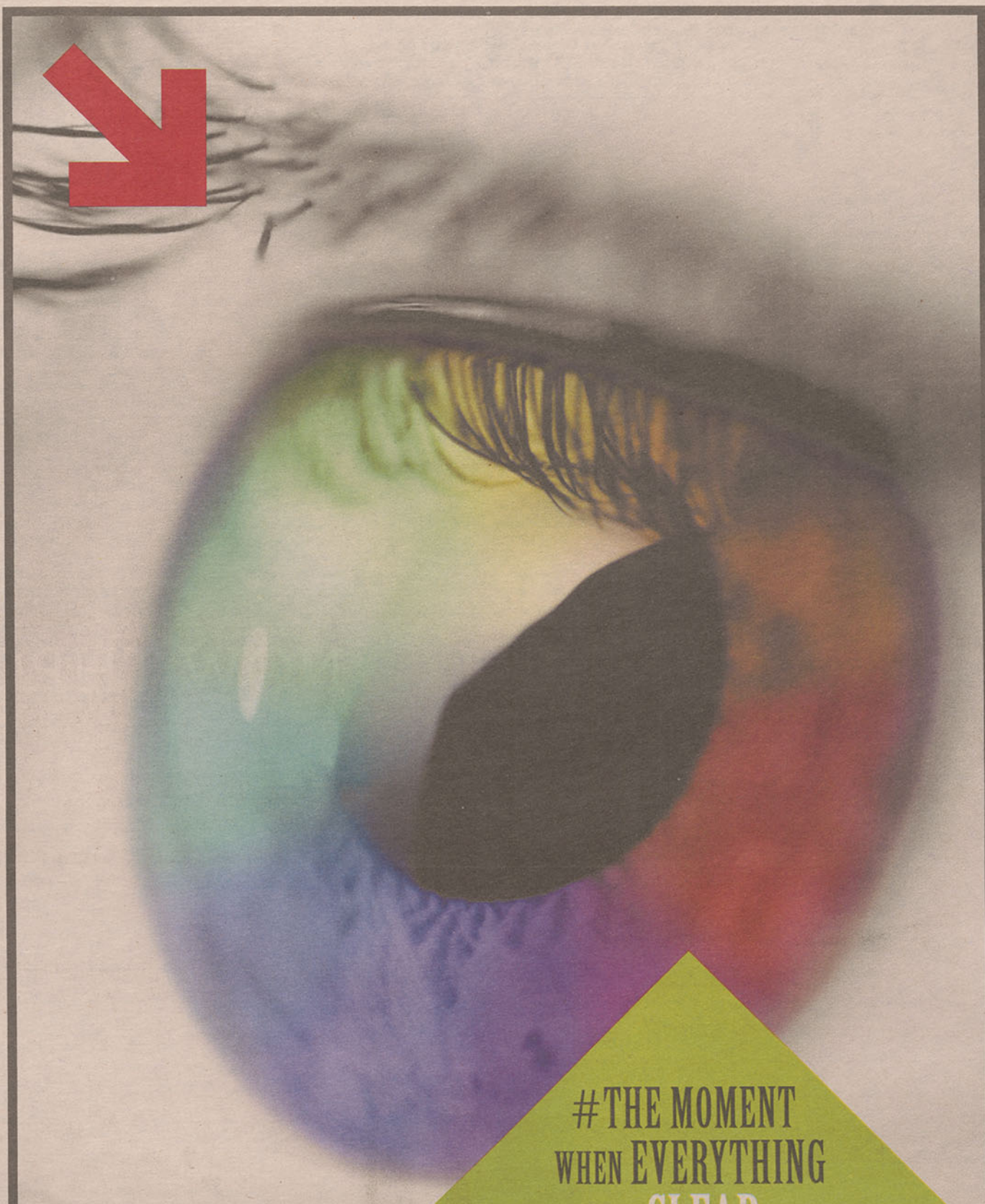
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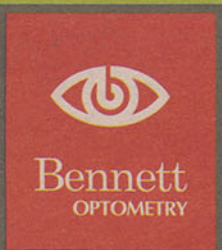
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# Ann Arbor Observer

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vol. 40 • no. 5

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**Expensive gift:** A few hours after Ann Arbor child care worker Jan Kirk died of breast cancer, her daughter, Jennifer Kirk, and a close friend drove to Nie Funeral Home, which had transported Jan's body to the University of Michigan Medical Center. Jan, a U-M social work grad, had asked that her body be donated to the university. Jennifer says she'd hoped to both advance medical research and spare her family the expense of a funeral.

So when the funeral home handed the two grief-stricken women a bill for more than \$1,000, Jennifer says, they were stunned—but “blindly handed over a credit card without questioning.”

It turns out even donating your body is expensive in Ann Arbor—Muehlig Funeral Chapel's charges are essentially the same as Nie's. Jennifer had read the U-M's lengthy list of requirements for anatomical donations, which state that the university does not cover the cost of delivering the body. But, she emails, there was no hint of “the exorbitant cost of transportation.”

The Wayne State and Michigan State medical schools also accept cadavers, but, unlike the U-M, they don't charge a delivery fee for local donors. (They do charge for pickups from longer distances, so they're not a cost-saving option for Ann Arborites.) U-M spokeswoman Kara Gavin emails that the program is set up so that donors “support the cost of transportation, and because this is spelled out clearly ... we would hope that prospective donors would discuss this with their loved ones and plan ahead ...”

Jennifer Kirk says her mother appreciated the good care she received from U-M medical staff. (She also has praise for Nie.) “But I do feel she would be disappointed knowing we incurred this unexpected cost,” she writes. Kirk hopes that “others who make the decision to give this precious anatomical gift can learn from our experiences.”

**Runaround:** Crashes increased fivefold in the State-Ellsworth intersection after it was converted from a traffic light to a traffic circle in 2013, from an average of twenty-nine a year to an average of 145. Chris Bragg narrowly missed being in one of them.

The Freedom Township potter was riding his motorcycle last August when he entered the roundabout from the east on Ellsworth, intending “to go around and turn right on westbound Ellsworth.” Believing that once in the circle he had the right-of-way to continue indefinitely, he planned to “stay in the right lane the whole way.” But a truck in the left lane exited onto northbound State—and nearly ran him over.

Determined “to find out how it works so I can be safe and others can too,” Bragg called the Ann Arbor Police Department. He says he was told that “unless the left lane is marked with arrows to go right, the left-lane vehicle cannot cross to turn right ... unless it's striped as a through lane.”

“You gotta look down at the pavement to see [if it's striped],” says Bragg incredulously. “No one's looking down. They're so busy looking for everyone who's going to run into them!”

The intersection is on the border between the city and Pittsfield Township, so he called Pittsfield next; they referred him to the Washtenaw County Road Commission. Reading from his notes, he quotes their answer: “Right lane has right-of-way to continue in circle without exiting until it chooses to. Left lane in circle cannot cross over right lane to exit thus taking right lane's right-of-way.”

Isn't that a contradiction of what he'd heard from Ann Arbor?

“It is,” Bragg says triumphantly. “The Ann Arbor woman did say: ‘unless it's striped as a through lane.’ We've got some kind of new animal here. Everybody else can just stop or get out of our way or get smashed because, hey, we [through drivers] own this road! ... If there're two different kinds of roundabouts and they're not telling anybody, then nobody is safe!”

“There are the same rules for every roundabout,” says Mark McCulloch, the Washtenaw County Road Commission engineer who designed the State-Ellsworth circle. “Anyone in the roundabout has the right-of-way, and anyone entering should yield.” But that doesn't answer Bragg's question about who has the right-of-way while exiting.

There, it turns out, the rules really are different. If he wanted to, Bragg could circle a one-lane roundabout on his Kawasaki for hours unchallenged. But as his AAPD contact suspected, the State-Ellsworth circle gives through traffic the right-of-way in both lanes: drivers in the right lane are supposed to exit directly opposite the point where they enter—and drivers in the left lane have the option to exit there, too. Which is how Bragg found a truck bearing down on him from his left.

The experience left Bragg convinced that State-Ellsworth is the most dangerous intersection in the county. McCulloch says otherwise. “That intersection is not dangerous—relatively speaking. You can't look solely at number of crashes. You have to look at severity of crashes. The crashes

[in a roundabout] are at lower speeds, so a large majority of people involved aren't seeking medical attention, and serious injuries are typically down 70 to 80 percent.”

That said, “We're teaming up with the Ann Arbor and Pittsfield Township police to reduce crashes,” McCulloch says. “We're thinking of overhead signage or signs on the side of the road or pavement markings. Also small changes in geometric deflection, the angles of entry and exit, can play a big role in the amount of crashes, and we're looking at that too. By early 2016 we will have an idea of options available.”

Till then, be careful out there.

**DIY art:** “We spread the joy!” says Learning Express Toys employee Pam Smith. “Everyone who works in the store—we're all real into it.” Every night after work, Smith gets out her glitter pens and fills in a coloring book for grownups. “It's a great way to unwind,” she says.

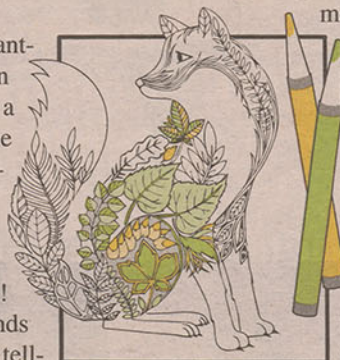
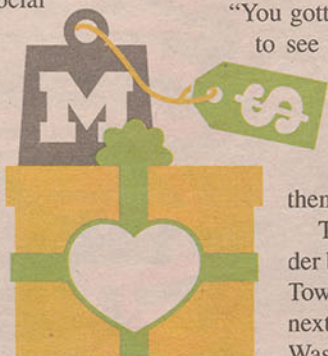
The Westgate store sells more than 1,000 coloring books to adults each month, says another employee. Especially popular are Scottish illustrator Johanna Basford's million-seller *Secret Garden*, where each intricately detailed page represents a tiny part of the garden (bugs and all), and the *Peace & Love Coloring Book*, which includes variations of the peace symbol and a “Make Art Not War” logo.

Such books have sold quietly for years, says Nicola's Books manager Linda Caine. But after the *New York Times* did a feature on Basford last spring, “we were sold out in minutes. Minutes!” Basford did a follow-up, *The Enchanted Forest*, and “suddenly there were dozens” of other illustrators cranking out books, Caine says.

Both stores also sell the tools to decorate their wares—colored pencils, special markers, and even crayons (though the childhood favorites don't work as well for the grown-up books' intricately inked drawings).

The AADL is hosting a free “Zen and the Art of Coloring” program on Sunday, January 24 (see Events). For do-it-yourself bliss, the *Zen Coloring Book Series*, by writer Lacy Mucklow and artist Angela Porter, promises “coloring templates for calm and meditation.” The series includes *Color Me Stress Free*, *Color Me Calm*, and *Color Me Happy*, all featuring swirling, ready-to-color mandala patterns.

Almost all the buyers are women, but Learning Express manager Mark Brakefield is an exception—he's colored *The Harry Potter Coloring Book* and *Fantastic Cities*. But coloring is not his favorite way to unwind: “My Zen garden is my Lego city that I built.”



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Angell Elementary	Tues.	2/23/2016	6:00 - 7:30 pm
Ann Arbor Open	Tues.	2/23/2016	6:30 - 7:30 pm
A2 STEAM at Northside	Tues.	2/23/2016	6:00 - 7:00 pm
Bach Elementary	Tues.	2/23/2016	6:00 - 7:30 pm
Bryant/Pattengill*	Thurs.	2/25/2016	6:00 - 7:30 pm
Burns Park Elementary	Tues.	2/23/2016	6:00 - 7:15 pm
Carpenter Elementary	Thurs.	2/25/2016	6:00 - 8:00 pm
Dicken Elementary	Tues.	2/9/2016	6:00 - 7:30 pm
Eberwhite Elementary	Thurs.	2/11/2016	6:15 - 7:30 pm
Haisley Elementary*	Thurs.	2/25/2016	6:30 - 7:30 pm
King Elementary	Tues.	2/2/2016	6:00 - 7:30 pm
Lakewood Elementary	Tues.	2/23/2016	6:30 - 7:30 pm
Lawton Elementary*	Thurs.	2/4/2016	6:30 - 7:30 pm
Logan Elementary*	Tues.	2/23/2016	6:00 - 7:30 pm
Mitchell Elementary	Tues.	2/23/2016	6:00 - 7:30 pm
Pittsfield Elementary	Thurs.	2/11/2016	6:00 pm
Thurston Elementary	Thurs.	2/11/2016	6:00 - 7:00 pm
Wines Elementary	Wed.	2/24/2016	6:00 - 7:00 pm

\*Young Fives programs offered only at these schools. Children must turn five years old between May 1 and December 1, 2016.



## ArborBike Update

*U-M students have invented a way to always bicycle downhill.*

The secret is ArborBike, the Clean Energy Coalition's rent-by-the-hour system that wrapped up its first full season in December. Members, who sign up online or at one of thirteen docking stations, paid \$6 a day, \$10 a month, or \$65 a year for unlimited sixty-minute rides on 125 custom-made, three-speed bikes. According to operations manager Heather Croteau, one of the most popular trips was from the corner of Murfin and Hubbard on North Campus to Murfin and Bonisteel. Members "tend to ride down the Murfin [Ave.] hill," she emails, "but rarely ride up it."

The students presumably walked back up the hill. The bikes rode back in a truck.

That was just one of the surprises in ArborBike's first season. From March to December, it clocked 13,800 trips, and closed the year with 4,800 unique riders. That's fewer than half the 10,000 members the group predicted in a September 2014 *Ann Arbor News* article.

CEC also expected a higher trip volume. "But after talking to other systems this year, there's a statistic they use: 80 percent of your revenue will come from day passes, and 80 percent of your trips will come from annual and monthly [passes]," Croteau says. A typical day pass user will "maybe make one trip from one station to another, whereas we see the annual and monthly passes riding several times a day, every day."

About three-quarters of ArborBike's memberships sold were day passes, compared to 562 monthly and just eighty-two annual passes. Fortunately, it isn't depending on rider revenue to survive: CEC landed a \$600,000 federal grant, as well as city and U-M funding, to launch the system, and the university pledged \$200,000 a year for three years to operate it.



Central Campus docking stations saw the most rentals—and more round-trips than hilly North Campus.

It seems likely that students and U-M staff accounted for a large share of ArborBike usage. Croteau says only 6 percent of this season's riders registered using "@umich.edu" email addresses, but they took 40 percent of all trips. By far the busiest of station was at South University and East University, which also saw the most round-trip rides. Stations at South University and State and at the Central Campus Recreation Building on Washtenaw were also among the most popular.

Off-campus stations saw notably less traffic. A temporary station at South Division and Hill saw the least use, partly due to flooding that caused it to malfunction several times (members use credit or

debit cards to release the bikes). That station will move to its originally intended spot outside the Intramural Sports Building on Hoover after construction there is complete in early 2016. The ArborBike station outside City Hall was the second-least used.

Despite disappointing ridership, CEC representatives say they consider ArborBike's first full season a success. But sales of "sponsorships"—ads that may be placed either on a docking station or on a bicycle itself—were definitely underwhelming. CEC director of business operations Cassandra Fletcher-Martin says the main challenge now is finding funding to "grow the system in a way that's meaningful for the community and economically feasible." That could include more federal grants, foundation money, or sponsorships from businesses that want to subsidize a nearby ArborBike station.

CEC is still working through the right-of-way permitting process for a planned station at South University and Washtenaw. Originally planned for a 2015 rollout, it is the only ArborBike location in a state right-of-way. Otherwise, no new stations are currently planned for 2016.

That will disappoint the system's small but enthusiastic user base, who'd like to see stations much farther flung around town. "People are requesting them out at the grocery stores—Plum Market, Kroger," Croteau says. "They're requesting them out on Plymouth or out at Briarwood."

## Cold Comfort

*Veteran vendors are questioning plans for a new Farmers Market building.*

Everyone agrees that the Ann Arbor Farmers Market is badly in need of improvements, namely more covered stall space for vendors, an enclosed space for the winter market, and repairs to the gutters.

However, there is plenty of disagreement about the best solution. The market manager and the city's Public Market Advisory Commission are proposing a new building at an estimated cost of \$850,000. A strong contingent of vendors call that overkill. They say the building wouldn't be big enough for their winter needs and would reduce stall space and parking year-round. They suspect the hidden goal is to create a rental space for private events.

"The existing structure was put up during the Works Progress Administration" during the Great Depression, says market manager Sarah DeWitt, making the case for change. DeWitt estimates that about a third of vendors responded to a spring 2014 email survey about market improvements, and nearly half of them listed more covered stall space, enclosed winter market space, and new gutters as their top priorities. A separate survey of customers found support for more stalls, a winter enclosure, and community space.

The eighty-by-fifty-foot building, designed by Kohler Architecture of Monroe, would fill the open lot facing Fourth Ave. and stretch across a driveway to take over the tip of the market's short middle arm. Overhead doors on all sides would be open in warm weather, making room for forty-two vendors. During the cold months, with the doors closed, the architects estimate it would accommodate fifty-eight in smaller spaces. (According to the market website, about thirty vendors currently attend the Saturday winter market from January through March.)

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## Inside Ann Arbor

"One of the reasons we need enclosed space in the winter is because more farmers are operating four-season businesses and need outlets for those products, and they can't sell delicate greens in minus-twenty-degree wind chills," DeWitt says.

"I'm very excited for it," says Paul Martin of Pure Harvest Pesto. "I'm looking forward to coming year-round. It will attract more people, and that's a good thing for the market."

Pat Shockley of Plymouth's The Pasta Shop agrees. "I'd love anything inside," she says when asked at a cold Saturday market in November. "I've seen the plans. I'd use it."

The plans seem more popular among vendors who sell prepared food and need only a single stall. It's the longtime vendors, who sell large amounts of goods

*The plans seem more popular among vendors who sell prepared food and need only a single stall. It's the long-time vendors, who sell large amounts of goods year-round from multiple stalls, who object the most.*

year-round from multiple stalls, who object the most.

"It's a waste of a million dollars," says Jan Upston of Wasem Fruit Farm, whose family has been selling fruit and baked goods at the market for over sixty years. "First it was \$500,000, then \$600,000. It just keeps escalating."

"How will they keep that up if they can't even keep this in repair?" she asks, pointing to a large hole in the asphalt behind her stall.

"We wouldn't use it, because we'd be limited to an itty-bitsy teeny stall, and we'd have to keep everything in our truck."

Debra Marx, who sells handmade jewelry, agrees. "For a fraction of the amount being spent, we could upgrade the existing structure with love and winterize the whole main aisle" with enclosures and radiant heat, Marx says. That's what was done at the Toledo Farmers' Market in 2007.

"It cost them \$70,000 to do it," says vendor Janna Field of Dexter, who was one of a group of vendors who toured the Toledo market. "The area they winterized was about the length of the [Ann Arbor market's] middle aisle."

While Ann Arbor has discussed such a solution in the past, according to the market website it was rejected because winterizing with pull-down shutters "comes with an unknown cost for retrofitting" the WPA-vintage structure.

"We wanted covered space and a winter market, but no one asked if we wanted a new building," says Field. A vendor since 1994, Field sells bedding plants,





The planned market building would provide an enclosed, heated space for winter vendors, but even some hardy, year-round sellers say it's overkill.

flowers, and herbs from three stalls that would be eliminated to make way for the new structure. She says that in her own informal survey of forty vendors, 92 percent said they "don't want a new building, won't use it, and may leave the market as a result of being pushed out of the spaces they've spent decades of seniority to get."

Donna Puehler of Grandma's Kitchen in Delta, Ohio, would see her two stalls eliminated, too. "This is a farmers' market, not a party place," says Puehler, who's sold eggs and baked goods for nineteen years. "I come all winter, and I won't use it. It won't be big enough for everything."

Joan Ernst, who's sold meat at the market for twelve years, agrees. "It will be nice to have an enclosure, but it won't work for me. I have too much stuff," she says.

The barn-like structure would also provide some outdoor seating and would be available to rent when the market isn't in operation. Early planning included extensive discussions of using the building for weddings and other events, even possibly adding a second story to maximize rental space. However, DeWitt downplays that as a consideration now: "The plan for the new structure is market operations. That's really our focus."

"We've had weddings here at the existing market, so I'm not going to say someone might not rent the building for a wedding, but that's not the purpose."

DeWitt estimates that 75 percent of the written comments she's received on the plan from market visitors are positive, and says she's received letters of support from vendors too.

Some vendors say they haven't yet made up their minds. "I come year-round, and I'm looking forward to improvements," says produce grower Rob MacKerchen of Garden Works, a vendor since 1991. "I want positive change for the market, but I'm not sure I'd use it."

The new building is slated for construction in 2017. While \$675,000 in Farmers Market and Parks and Recreation funds are earmarked for the project, DeWitt says, more funding will have to be obtained before work starts.

The market commission is currently forming two advisory committees, one for vendors and one for the community, and public comments are welcomed at [pmac@a2gov.org](mailto:pmac@a2gov.org).

## Final Curtain

*On December 20, the Performance Network Theatre closed. Again.*

John Manfredi and Suzi Regan re-opened the Network in August 2014, three months after the board of directors closed the deeply indebted theater for the first time. With Manfredi as executive director and Regan as artistic director, they produced top-notch productions for a season and a half, but still struggled financially.

In October, they launched an emergency appeal for \$50,000. Many artists and some audience members responded with



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John Manfredi and Suzi Regan when they took over the theater in 2014. Hopes for a turnaround foundered on big debts and burned-out donors.



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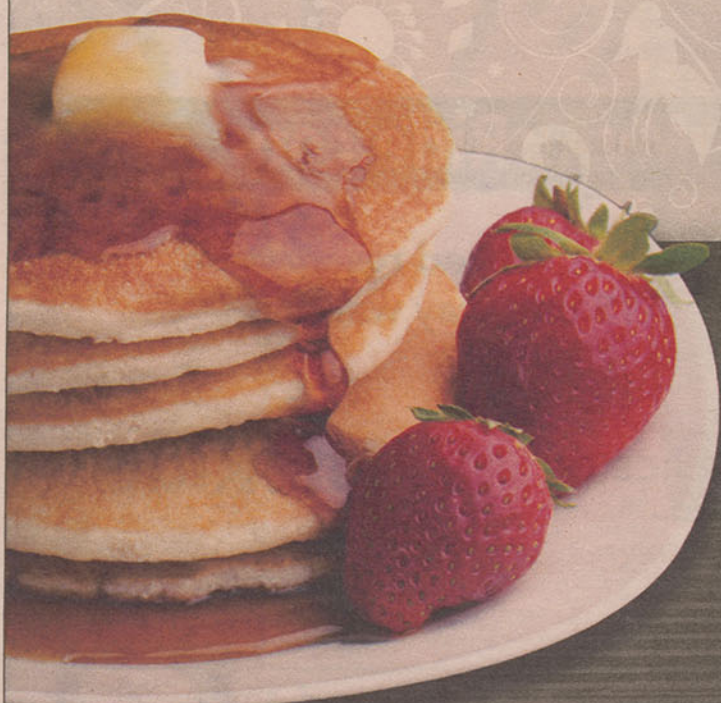
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*Inside Ann Arbor*

small donations that got them close to the goal and kept the theater open though December. But attempts to bring out the big donors failed.

"Our last pitch to a significant philanthropic donor in the arts was met with 'I promised myself I would never ever give money to the Network again,' from a guy who could have written a check for the whole debt and not blinked," says Manfredi. "That was a consistent message since we started. Combine that with our refusal to sell subscriptions for next year without more funding for this year, and the theater was not sustainable."

They couldn't even borrow money. They'd made significant headway paying debts to the IRS, the state, and the actors' union, and even paid down more than a quarter of a bank loan inherited from the prior administration—but nobody wanted to get behind the IRS and the state in a collection line. "Not only did the previous regime spend the employer portion of payroll taxes but the portion they deducted from people's salaries," Manfredi says.

Former executive director Carla Milarch says she wasn't involved in finances the last year or so, after becoming associate artistic director, and can't comment; Erin Sabo, the last managing director, says she "would prefer not to comment on PNT anymore because at a certain point I was being vilified and not any one person is to blame. I wish everyone involved only the best out of life."

Regan says even board members didn't know how broke the theater was when they closed it the first time. They had been told the debt was about \$300,000; it turned out to be more than \$450,000. Manfredi says that when he and Regan walked into the building, they found twelve registered letters from the IRS that nobody had responded to.

"The first time they got caught with [unpaid] payroll taxes, the donors jumped in and helped them out," says Regan. "The second time, a couple of people jumped in. Unpaid bills from the IRS was

*The board thought the theater's debt was about \$300,000; it turned out to be more than \$450,000. Manfredi says that when he and Regan walked into the building, they found twelve registered letters from the IRS that nobody had responded to.*

only the beginning of the mountain of unpaid bills we discovered. There appeared to be a lot of fudging and not a whole lot of transparency, and the big money people felt betrayed."

The board has had several outside training sessions regarding governance and operations, and about 30 percent of the members are new since the first closing. Manfredi says they weren't at fault: "They have proof that they were asking the right questions and were

getting the wrong answers."

Playwright Annie Martin credits Regan and Manfredi for trying "to save this organization from financial ruins that had been accruing from years of mismanagement. It meant that they couldn't just focus on making great theater, but they also had to work to try to erase a debt ... rebuild trust in

a community, and keep a stiff upper lip when attacks and innuendos were lobbed at them as they tried to get the doors reopened."

Adds Martin: "The fact that anyone would be able to do any theater in those circumstances is incredible, but they managed to create some damn fine works while putting out fire after fire after fire."

*question corner*

**Q.** The turbine at Barton Dam has been shut down for the past couple weeks. Is this permanent?

**A.** The 302-acre Barton Pond was created in 1885 by the Ann Arbor Water Company to serve as a water source, and it still supplies most of the city's water. The present dam was built in 1912 for electrical generation, using a multi-arch design developed by U-M engineering alum Gardner S. Williams; it was designated a civil engineering landmark in 1986 by the state chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

The turbine was shut down for a couple of weeks of maintenance in October. It also is inactive when the flow in the river falls too low, a common occurrence in the summer. Though the dam is now 104 years old, it is expected to generate electricity long into the future.

Got a question? Email [question@aaobserver.com](mailto:question@aaobserver.com).

Life in Ann Arbor

Tim Athan

It is 2016, Michael. When are you thinking of leaving Weber's?





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As part of this program we also have two, eight-week courses to promote healthy activity by encouraging adults, 50 and older, to utilize parks for physical activities, learn new active skills, meet new people, and improve fitness and overall well being. More details to follow.

Funding for the program is provided by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund in partnership with the Michigan Recreation & Parks Association to encourage citizens to utilize community parks, trails and recreation amenities to be physically active.



To pick up your passport and learn more about this program attend a free kick-off event on the following dates from 2-4 p.m.

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**Saturday, March 19**  
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**Saturday, May 7**  
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**Saturday, June 4**  
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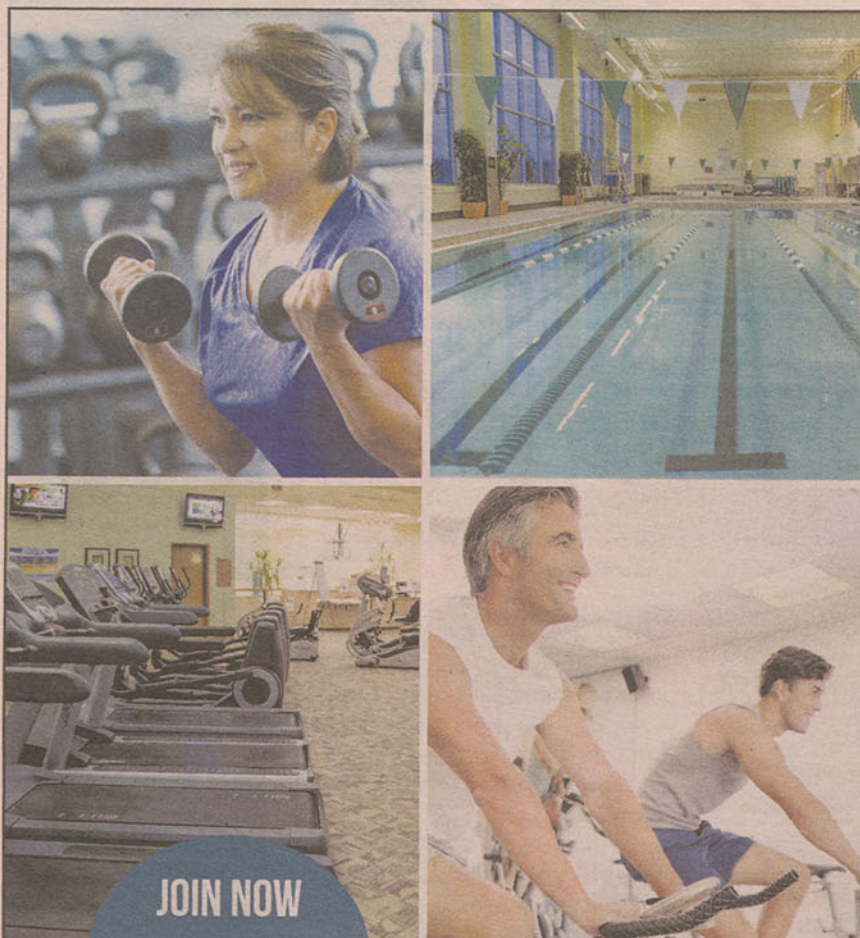
You'll be able to find the new 65-page parks guide starting Feb. 1 by visiting [a2gov.org/parks](http://a2gov.org/parks). You'll see our 2016 Summer Day Camps and all events/programs at our park facilities from golf and kayak lessons to cultural arts activities and log rolling classes. You can find us online at [twitter.com/a2parks](https://twitter.com/a2parks) or tag us on [facebook.com/annarbor.parks](https://facebook.com/annarbor.parks) or tag us on [instagram.com/annarborparks](https://instagram.com/annarborparks).

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# Outside

by Bob & Jorja Feldman

## Blowin' in the Wind

*A local quest for wind machines*

Don Quixote said of windmills (mistaking them for giants) that "the removal of so foul a brood from off the face of the earth is a service God will bless." Though contemporary attitudes toward this form of renewable energy are more favorable, we followed the Don's lead by mounting up and setting out to look at some local windmills, with a wind turbine or two thrown in for good measure.

Windmills once were widely used to pump water or mill grain, but today often survive mainly as ornaments in the landscape, iconic and nostalgic reminders of the past. Wind turbines, in contrast, aspire to be a functional part of the present and future by converting wind energy into electrical power.

The windmill pictured on this page is located in the play area at County Farm Park. Its blades rotate in a gentle breeze, theatrically dramatic against a backdrop of scattered clouds in a winter sky.

On a different day, at the corner of Ann Arbor-Saline and Pleasant Lake roads, we saw the Creature Conservancy's large windmill, powered by a brisk wind, spinning insanely fast, its blades melded together in a speed blur.

Further out, we found the Saline Depot Museum, at 402 N. Ann Arbor St. hosting a stocky wooden Eclipse windmill with red-tipped blades. The Saline Area Historical Society also operates a second museum at the Rentschler Farm on Michigan Ave.; there it displays a Saline Standard Windmill, made by a local company that opened for business in the late 1800s.

On a less windy day, driving along Ellsworth, we noticed a skeletal windmill standing motionless, a melancholy beauty among stark winter trees, in a residential side lot at the corner of Deer Glen Dr. Even more prominent is the Unitarian



*The windmill pictured on this page is located in the play area at County Farm Park. Its blades rotate in a gentle breeze, theatrically dramatic against a backdrop of scattered clouds in a winter sky.*

Universalist Church's wind turbine near the corner of Ellsworth and Ann Arbor-Saline, with its elegantly simple three-bladed propeller design.

On the north side, Skyline High School is topped by a vertical axis wind turbine that spins like twisted metal ribbon candy whirling in the breeze. The structure's existence could be justified as a work of art even if it lacked any utilitarian purpose.

Jeff Masters, director of meteorology for the Weather Underground, informs us that Ann Arbor's winds most often blow in from the west, southwest, or northwest. Perhaps half a dozen times a year, a strong northwest wind that passes over the open water of Lake Michigan may send

an inch or so of lake-effect snow all the way to Ann Arbor. But Masters explains that 90 percent of our snowfall arrives on heavy wet weather from the southwest, or Alberta Clippers from the northwest.

Masters says March is our windiest month, followed by April, December, and November in that order. Wind is usually stronger during the day, starting about ten or eleven in the morning and continuing until about an hour before sunset, when winds die down because the sun is no longer heating the earth. But nighttime storms can ride in on strong winds that howl in the night. The dog hides under the bed.

—Bob & Jorja Feldman

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# Big Georges

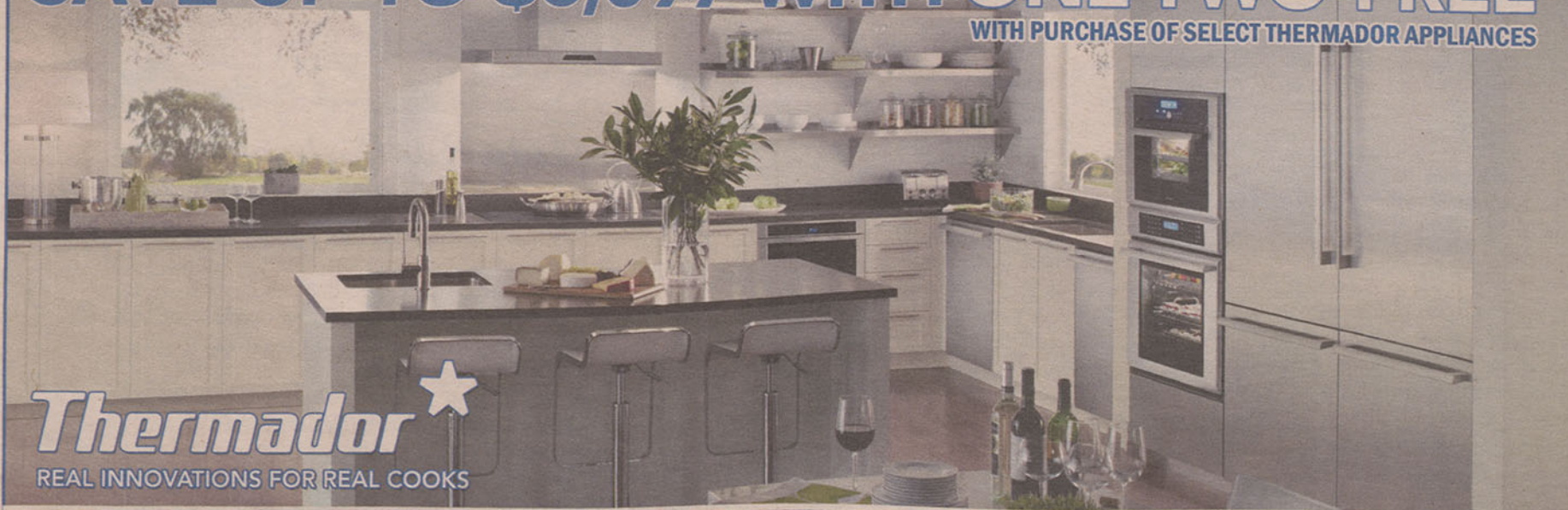
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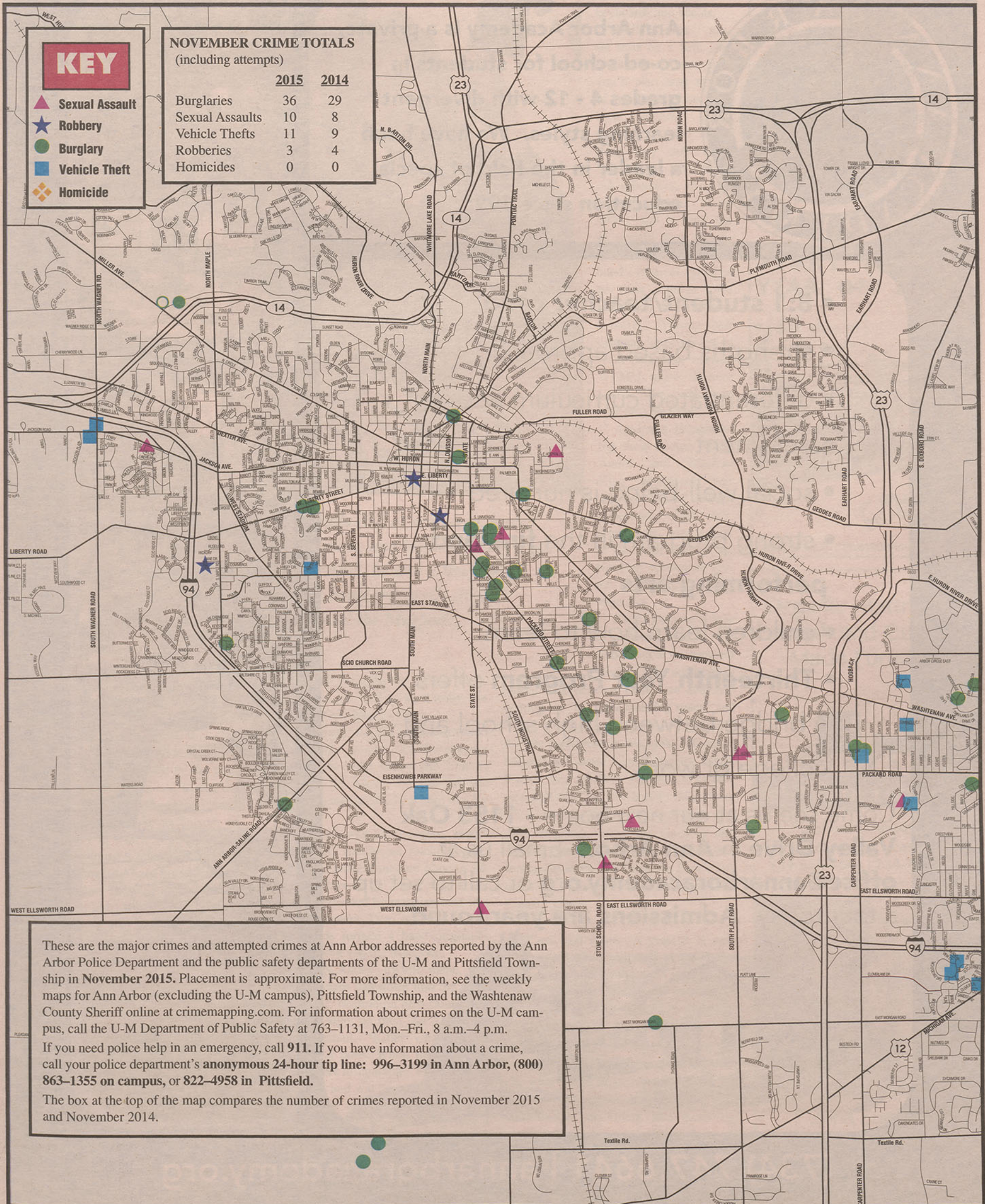


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# Ann Arborites

## Brennan Andes

### Waking the jazz giant

**"J**azz is not dead," Frank Zappa once intoned. "It just smells funny."

Zappa's quote fit Ann Arbor's jazz scene five years ago, after the closing of downtown strongholds the Bird of Paradise, the Firefly Club, and the Del Rio. But Macpodz bassist and vocalist Brennan Andes believes that "jazz is a sleeping giant in Ann Arbor—and it's about to be awoken."

It looked wide awake at the Macpodz' Thanksgiving Eve show at the Blind Pig: the line stretched out the door, all the way to Washington, and around the corner. "They sold this place out seven years straight," the ticket-taker told me.

Andes spent the better part of the summer and fall touring Europe as a duo with blues and jazz guitarist Luke Winslow-King. After Dan Henig's opening set, Andes and King worked the crowd into a dance frenzy that lasted well past midnight. Then the house lights came on, and the rest of the Macpodz took the stage. A hush settled on the crowd, the lights dimmed, and Andes stepped up to the mike. A few blue beams cut through the darkness as he called out, "Who wants to hear Ross [Huff] blow his trumpet?" The crowd went wild.

**A**ndes is thirty-two, tall and lanky, with a neatly trimmed beard and wild blond hair covered by a tan newsboy hat. At the Big City Small World Bakery on Miller, he explains that cartoons, of all things, awakened his own jazz giant. As a kid growing up in the nearby neighborhood, now called Water Hill, he was a big fan of *Looney Tunes* and *Merrie Melodies*. While he was mildly amused by the slapstick antics of the characters, it was the musical scores that enthralled him.

He recalls in particular an episode of *Tom and Jerry* in which Tom, the bumbling cat, passionately plucks an upright bass, the instrument Andes himself would one day master. He was seven, maybe eight, and the song was "Is You Is or Is You Ain't My Baby?" "It just blew my mind," he says. "Because of the music, two-dimensional beings became three-dimensional beings."

In *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, Franz Liszt's *Hungarian Rhapsody* similarly breathed life into the film's cartoon personalities. To this day, when Andes performs with the Pherotones on Thursday nights at the Last Word, he and the boys make sure to include Liszt on their playlist.

Andes fondly recalls his father taking him to a Grateful Dead concert as well as to downtown clubs to hear local jazz icons like Dave Holland, Ray Brown, Ron Brooks, Josef Diaz, and Paul Keller.



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

*Andes graduated at seventeen, rented an apartment, and began booking gigs. Then in 2005, he and a few friends formed a band originally dubbed Duncan and the Macpodz.*

"I grew up going to the Bird of Paradise," he says, as well as the Firefly, the Del Rio, and Mr. Flood's Party.

When he was ten, his parents enrolled him in guitar lessons. At Community High, mentors Mike Grace and Vincent York fanned the flames. He took full advantage, playing jazz every school day for four years.

Andes graduated at seventeen, rented an apartment, and began booking gigs. He earned a modest income playing for private events or on the small stage at the Earle, supplemented by teaching bass lessons for beginners. Then in 2005, he and a few friends formed a band originally dubbed Duncan and the Macpodz.

Duncan is Andes' middle name, and fellow musicians had given him the nickname B-Mac. Inspiration also came from the group's logo, an orca. As Andes explains by email, "Killer whales form groups called pods. When they join together, they are inseparable." Put Mac with Pod, add a z, and you have the Macpodz.

By the time they performed their first gig a year later, at Black Elk Co-Op, they'd dropped "Duncan," but Andes has always been central to the group. The number of players has changed over the years, but in addition to trumpeter Huff, the other current members are Griffin Bastain on drums

and Jesse Clayton on keyboards and vocals.

While their music rests on a firm jazz foundation, Andes says you'll also hear strains of world rhythms, big band sounds, funky dance beats, and something they call "disco bebop." As for musical influences, the cast includes Zappa, Miles Davis, and a long list of upright bass thrashers. Huff describes the band's musical appetites on their website: "We like lunch, but we loves a buffet." Praising their original tunes rooted in "real American music," WEMU music director Linda Yohn calls them "the next best thing."

After the Thanksgiving show in Ann Arbor, Andes and Winslow King continued their musical trek through America's rust belt. From there, they'll head to the other side of the planet to perform at venues in New Zealand and Australia.

Andes says he'd love to perform more in Ann Arbor, but at the moment "there's just not enough

places." He believes there's an audience waiting for "the right listening space" and thinks a new venue "might just reinvigorate the jazz scene in this town." He lauds homegrown talent like trumpeter Ingrid Racine and vocalist Heather Schwartz, who perform with the Heather Black Project at the Ravens Club. Though there's no dedicated jazz venue, the music is also starting to take root again with regular performances at the Old Town, the Last Word, and Café Felix as well as the Kerrytown Concert House.

**J**azz and music in general is definitely alive and well at the Andes household on the west side of Ann Arbor. The tribe includes his six-year-old daughter, Sarie; his girlfriend; and local punk rock legend Hiawatha Bailey. Sarie is a chip off the old block, enthusiastically playing the piano and harmonica and singing with all her heart when she joins her dad and Hi during home rehearsals.

Between performing and mentoring aspiring bass players, Andes is doing all he can to resurrect the local jazz scene. By all accounts, it's working. Jazz is smelling sweet again, and the giant is stirring.

—Matt Thompson

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## The Lustron Life

*Heavy metal housing in Ann Arbor*

It's the first thing visitors ask: "What's it like during a thunderstorm? The lightning! Will you get fried in here?" "Here" is my all-steel Lustron home. There's not an ounce of the usual home-building materials inside or out: no wood, no brick. Hence the concern about lightning strikes: metal, last time we looked, is pretty good at transferring bolts of lightning to the unsuspecting homeowner. I tell Lustron newbies that I've just learned not to touch the walls during storms, leaving out the boring detail about the copper wire that runs from the roof's peak to ground safely away from the home.

Scaring visitors with tales of potential electrocution is just part of the fun of owning one of the few remaining Lustron houses in the United States. The Lustron Company, based in Columbus, built about 2,500 of these homes between 1948 and 1950. They were meant to fill the housing needs of the GIs returning from World War II in a simple, inexpensive way, giving their owners a practical, maintenance-free home for about \$10,000. In addition to its all-metal, mass-production construction, the Lustron had radiant heat, built-in storage cabinets in its bedrooms, sliding "pocket doors" that disappeared into walls, and a combination laundry and dishwasher system called the Thor.

Lustrons, most of which were two-bedroom, 1,000-square-foot models, were manufactured and partially assembled in a former Curtiss-Wright aircraft manufacturing plant in Columbus. Wall sections were pre-wired and plumbed, and then the entire house—interior and exterior walls, ceiling panels, roof trusses, and metal shingles, along with thousands of nuts and bolts to hold them all together—was loaded on a single tractor-trailer and driven to its destination.

Mine showed up on the northwest corner of Chandler and Amherst in Lower



*The little steel homes are usually well known in their neighborhoods for their square, shiny exterior panels. Some older fans remark that the panels remind them of Standard Oil gas stations. They are right on the money: in the 1930s, Lustron inventor Carl Strandlund manufactured prefabricated gas stations using the same iconic steel panels.*

Town in 1949. Placed on a concrete slab, it was bolted together piece-by-thousand-piece; it typically took a crew of four about a week to put one up. I bought it in 2013 for \$110,000—probably the most a Lustron's gone for in recent years, but then again, this is Ann Arbor.

Lustrons, even when only casually cared for, are ridiculously durable domiciles. I've spent next to nothing on major maintenance, because every exterior and interior surface is porcelain enamel-clad steel. It's similar to the paint finish on your car's metal surface: tough stuff. Certain areas of my Lustron are not spotless; after more than six decades, there's been some wear and tear and rust. It happens. And that's where a wire brush, sandpaper, and some durable oil-based paints come in handy. But for the most

part my Lustron is just as it was when it was assembled.

There are an estimated 1,600 Lustrons left. Ann Arbor has eight of them scattered around the city. (One, on Longshore Dr., burned down in the mid-1990s. Though it seems incredible that a steel home can succumb to fire, the owner was a hoarder who had piled up enough newspapers to melt metal.)

The little steel homes are usually well known in their Tree Town neighborhoods for their square, shiny exterior panels that measure two feet by two feet. Some older fans remark that the exterior panels remind them of Standard Oil gas stations. They are right on the money: in the 1930s, Lustron inventor Carl Strandlund manufactured prefabricated gas stations using the same iconic steel panels.

What you get inside your Lustron is the same as you get with its exterior: metal

fixtures and surfaces as far as the eye can see, from the "tripartite" aluminum casement windows and rib-textured interior walls to the sliding pocket doors, above-closet storage cabinets, built-in living room bookcase, built-in bedroom vanity, and kitchen "pass-through" china case. Trust me, it makes for a lot of fun in the cold, dry winter months as you move about and attempt to avoid static electricity shocks by not touching any surface.

While normal homeowners get to repaint their homes' exteriors and interiors, Lustron owners get to break out a bucket of warm sudsy water and mop their ceilings and sponge down their walls. Moisture and dust can accumulate there over the hot and humid summer months. Though a neighbor says she used to regularly see a crew wax my home's exterior, I haven't had to break out the Turtle Wax and buff up my home yet.

According to Thomas Feters' 2002 book *The Lustron Home*, more of Strandlund's steel castles were sold in Ann Arbor than in any other Michigan city. In a 1989 "Then & Now" article, Grace Shackman credited their success here to local franchisee Neil Staebler, a visionary local businessman and Democratic Party activist. However, neighborhood opposition to the metal homes was so strong—Staebler called it "a hornet's nest"—that he switched to more conventional wooden prefabs even before Strandlund's company went bankrupt in 1950.

I like to think that Lustron owners, like our homes, are unique and ahead of our times. Lustrons certainly are innovative in both form and function. And I've grown to love the tons of sixty-five-year-old steel safely surrounding my head.

Wait! Is that thunder I hear? Later!

—John C. Heider

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**W**ith their matching light wood paneling and benches, the courtrooms on the second floor of the Washtenaw County Courthouse are almost identical. But

Tim Connors' court stands out. On the walls are Native American dream catchers, large photos of a smiling young girl holding a bunch of daisies and the late U-M football player and Ann Arbor police officer Vada Murray, and a woven seal of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, showing a red-tailed hawk bringing wood to a campfire.

Connors' judicial attorney and referee, Jennifer Sullivan, says that lawyers in other cases sometimes ask her if they can just come in and sit down "because the space feels more safe. They feel the space is a place of healing rather than a place of hurtfulness."

Even in his robes, up on the bench, Connors looks relaxed—running his hand through his hair, leaning back, listening. And instead of lawyers making arguments or witnesses giving testimony, he's watching more than a dozen people seated close together, talking through a complicated family matter.

This is the Washtenaw County Peacemaking Court. Connors has been a circuit court judge since 1997, but he introduced peacemaking—the Pokagon Band calls it "native justice"—only after he took over the court's juvenile docket in the fall of 2014.

Instead of adversarial proceedings, lawyers, social workers, and family members work together to resolve conflicts. "If we're talking about putting [relationships] back together, then our way of communicating, and the way we address issues, needs to be respectful," says Connors. "We need to hear the other side—as opposed to, 'I'm trying to get my legal right to trump and extinguish the other's legal rights.'"

"If you're going to take away six buzz words," says Connors, "here they are: safe children, strong families, supportive communities."

Ironically, however, the creation of Peacemaking Court was far from peaceful. And people who care deeply about the children who come before Connors feel they were not heard.

**I**n June 2014, Joyce Tesoriero sent an email to Sullivan on behalf of Michigan CASA. CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates, a group of volunteers who work with children in the custody of the courts. Tesoriero, a coordinator of the county CASA program, wanted to invite Judge Connors to be the keynote speaker at the state group's annual conference in October.

Connors sent his acceptance—only to withdraw it a few weeks before the event. That was her first warning of what was to come.

*Judge Tim Connors  
is drawing on Native American*

*models to reunite troubled families. The child  
advocates he fired wonder if he's putting some kids at risk.*

## PEACEMAKING COURT



Connors with his peacemaking team: Jennifer Sullivan, Belinda Dulin, and Sherry Fire. "If you're going to take away six buzz words," he says, "here they are: safe children, strong families, supportive communities."

The CASA program originated in Seattle in the 1990s. "A judge realized there was a need for ... someone who really paid attention to what was going on with an individual child" in foster care, Tesoriero told me for an article I wrote two years ago ("Caring CASAs," December 2013). "Workers are overloaded, lawyers are overloaded. So he came up with this idea of citizen volunteers who just had one case, or one sibling group, who really got to know the child and know the needs of the child."

Tesoriero called the program "volunteering on steroids." After a forty-hour pre-service training program, CASAs are sworn in as officers of the court. They then

*The child advocates had dedicated  
years to helping children who were  
victims of abuse or neglect. Without  
them, they wondered, who would  
make sure the kids were well cared  
for?*

have access to the child's records, can interview people involved with the case, and present written recommendations to the court.

But Connors saw no need for those recommendations—or for the CASAs.

In October 2014, Deborah Shaw, then the court's juvenile program manager, emailed the CASA volunteers and coordinators. "I am writing today to notify you that the Court has decided to explore new approaches to providing services to children and families on our neglect/abuse docket," Shaw wrote. "As such, we will begin to phase out our CASA program."

The child advocates had devoted years to helping children who were victims of abuse or neglect. They visited them, got them tutoring, took them to basketball games, and reunited separated siblings. Without them, they wondered, who would make sure the kids were well cared for? Who would advocate for them and keep the court informed about how they were doing?

Tesoriero fought back. She sent a long letter to the volunteers, the state and national CASA organizations, and others involved in the program. "I reached out to Judge Connors on several occasions so that we could discuss the ways that CASA could work along with his initiatives to help the foster children in Washtenaw County," she wrote. "None of these invitations were ever accepted."

"Instead, one of Judge Connors' first acts in his new role was to eliminate CASA. Only after announcing the closing of the program and facing media attention for this decision did Judge Connors agree to meet with volunteers."

It did not go well. "At the start of the meeting several volunteers asked if the Judge

would explain his vision and his reasons for closing the program so that an honest dialogue about CASA and the proposed alternatives could begin," Tesoriero wrote. But Connors "insisted that he would not speak until the volunteers had spoken their 'truths' and laid out their 'emotions.'"

"After the presentation, Judge Connors admonished the group for their 'I' statements ... The judge stated that the new group of volunteers to supplant CASA would be recruited to focus on assisting in parent-child visitation and helping parents learn how to better parent their children."

Then Connors had the volunteers watch a movie on Native American families and culture. "There was a complete disconnect between the point of this video and the CASA meeting agenda," Tesoriero wrote. In her view, the judge's "refusal to engage in a meaningful dialogue, and his rude dismissal of volunteers who have collectively donated thousands of hours to help neglected and abused children find safe, permanent homes, evidenced a powerful ego and profound insensitivity."

Retired entrepreneur Dean DeGalan's review is even harsher—he described it to me as a "cockamamie peacemaking session ... [Connors] said that the program or our presence was all about us, and that basically we couldn't hold a candle to the dedication and professionalism of the people he worked with. He was absolutely rude, condescending, and arrogant."

DeGalan had worked with two siblings—a girl who flourished with foster parents he described as "mentors with a capital M" and a boy whose behavior got steadily worse as he bounced from placement to placement and ended up in a Saginaw lockup.

"I served as the person who corralled all of the parties who were supposedly involved and pulled into the case for his benefit to address certain matters that were helter-

JAN SCHLAIN





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## PEACEMAKING COURT

skelter at times," DeGalan says. "Can that role be replaced by a peacemaking circle?"

The short answer, supporters of peacemaking say, is yes.

I've come in at the tail end of a complicated case in Connors' courtroom involving multiple fathers (one in court, one on speakerphone), children (not in court), a mother, caseworkers, lawyers, and other relatives.

This is not a circle—those meetings take place in private, at the office of the Dispute Resolution Center, the nonprofit Connors brought in to replace CASA. But everyone gathered before the judge is part of the circle. When everyone has had a chance to speak, Connors asks if anyone has anything else to say. The father, who'd previously said nothing, now raises his hand. He says that he is doing everything he can to support his kids and it doesn't help to have someone from the court system telling him how to parent them. He talks for ten minutes about his life challenges, his two jobs, his feelings. How he has been harmed. How he wants to be a better father.

The group listens attentively. When he finishes, Connors thanks him for speaking, tells him he heard him, that he understands his challenges and admires his efforts.

The session ends with the parties agreeing to meet again in January. After they leave, Connors says, "I don't think the [father] from whom we heard testimony today would have been able to do that under the more traditional system."

Peacemaking originated in tribal courts, and Connors is clear about the debt. "I continue to learn, whenever I can—from tribal elders, tribal teachers, tribal judges around the country," he says.

He credits an important insight to Mark Wedge, a coauthor of a book he gave me called *Peacemaking Circles: From Crime to Community*. "Families put their trust into their communities. Communities put their trust into institutions. And from a Native point of view, this is where your breakdown occurs—those of you in the institutions, you forget that trust means responsibility."

To reunify a family, "the person we're trying to help really has to do some deep soul searching in an honest way. They aren't going to do that in an adversarial system where people get up there and trash them in front of the judge."

Like CASA, the Dispute Resolution Center has a small staff and a large group of volunteers, many of whom have trained as mediators. Executive director Belinda Dulin says they seek "to bring a group of people together who have an interest in keeping those children safe, and helping a family strengthen; to capitalize on their strengths and be a supportive community."

She acknowledges that keeping a peacemaking circle together "can be a struggle. But we gravitate back to 'why



are we here?" And that becomes our guiding light."

CASAs, Connors says, were created on the theory "that those who are institutionally involved in child welfare cases are overworked or not doing their job." He rejects that line of thought. "If the argument is, 'Nobody's doing their job,' then we need people doing their job, including me."

As for making recommendations about placing a child in foster care, he says, the law on terminating parental rights "is very clear"—and making that decision is "the responsibility of the judge."

Foster care is his last resort. He says national figures show that 60 percent of children who age out of foster care without having been adopted or put in a permanent placement "end up in one of three ways: homeless, incarcerated, or dead. So when we talk about the traditional path, that path is fairly destructive for the youth we are all claiming we're trying to keep safe."

When the goal is family reunification—as it is, he says, in maybe 85 to 90 percent of Washt-

enaw County's juvenile cases—then he thinks peacemaking is the way to go, if the parties are willing. Peacemaking is also an option in family court and probate court. Says Connors, "I think I should be available in every court, at some point."

**A**ttorney Steve Tramontin represents the father who spoke at the hearing I saw. He says the replacement of the CASA program with peacemaking is a "hot-button issue." So far, though, he believes it's a change for the better.

"At first peacemaking was tough for me," he admits. Trained to protect his client from saying anything that might be used against him, "I was uneasy at the beginning." But unless a threat is made, nothing that's said in the peacemaking circle can be used as evidence in court. And as part of the circle his client "felt more a part of the care and problem solving" and less isolated.

"I began my career in this realm—at-risk families, indigent clients, court-appointed work," Tramontin says. "I have been able to see the gaps and barriers, the holes in the system." In the traditional system, the parties would see caseworkers' reports "just days before court and had no time to talk about them before the court session ... we were responding or review-

ing in the hallway. No digesting of information. Responses were knee-jerk, [with the two sides] throwing arrows back and forth."

In the peacemaking circle, the parties "get these reports weeks in advance ... We're all looking at the reports and addressing things with each other. We eliminate issues that might be hard to address for the first time in court."

"The design and purpose of peacemaking is to have regular communication. Everybody has communication issues. If you've resolved the communication issues, it brings more clarity to the process."

Tramontin is confident that peacemaking has helped his client and perhaps even healed some generational trauma and bad behavior. It "allows for the possibility of a creative solution to an ordinarily cookie-cutter process," says Tramontin. "In the center is the community. In this process no stone is unturned."

There's been no creative solution to the rift between Connors and CASA. "Fast [family] reunifications and using dispute resolution

techniques to address damaged families and traumatized children may be a dangerous combination," Joyce Tesoriero warned in her letter to CASA volunteers and supporters. "Many of those who frequent the juvenile courtrooms in Washtenaw County fear that the children of the county could be put in harm's way if Judge Connors' power to control the juvenile court continues unchecked."

Dulin points out that threats of abuse, neglect, or bodily harm are exceptions to the peacemaking circle's confidentiality rule—her mediators are required to report them. And though Connors believes in peacemaking as strongly as Tesoriero believes in CASAs, he says that if it isn't working, cases can be shifted back to the traditional adversarial track at any time.

As for the CASAs' anger, Connors says, "I can't speak to how others feel about how they were treated. When people say how I am or how I behave, it says more about them than it does about me ... For all of us who are working for our youth, again it is about our youth, not about us."


If CASAs want to continue to work with children in his court, he says, they should get trained at the Dispute Resolution Center.

Dulin says so far only two former CASAs have done that—and only one has become a peacemaker. ■



MARK BIALEK

*Keeping a peacemaking circle together "can be a struggle," Dulin says. "But we gravitate back to 'why are we here,' and that becomes our guiding light."*




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**B**rad O'Furey is Ann Arbor Democrats' go-to campaign manager. In the past three years, he's helped elect Christopher Taylor mayor, Sabra Briere to council, Carol Kuhnke to circuit court, and Adam Zemke to the state house. But on quiet weekends, he says his favorite recreation "is to blare Simon and Garfunkel and bake."

O'Furey was Brad O'Conner until last August, when he married Nathan Furey and they combined their names. And he's baking better now thanks to the Kitchen Aid mixer he got as a wedding present from Sally Petersen, who challenged Jane Lumm in the November election and lost, becoming one of O'Furey's few candi-

dinct captain, an election judge, and was elected precinct chairman. Every time there was a campaign I was involved in it—for Congress, for city council for Houston. I worked with Annise Parker, the first lesbian mayor of Houston."

After earning a political science degree from the University of Houston, O'Furey moved to Ann Arbor in 2010 as a field organizer for then-congressman Mark Schauer. He also worked with Adam Zemke, who ran for county commissioner and won, and Christine Green, who ran for state representative and lost. After the campaigns ended, he returned to Houston briefly.

"I was miserable," he admits. "I missed Ann Arbor." So when Zemke called and asked him to run his 2012 campaign for state representative, "I left my job, my apartment, and my family, and packed my

skill, and there are candidates out there who really need an [elected] office."

The Zemke campaign also introduced him to First Ward councilmember Sabra Briere. "A big portion of Adam's district is in the First Ward," Briere recalls. "I was intrigued that his lists [of targeted voters] were all stored on phones rather than on paper." Though she had run her own campaigns in the past, Briere hired O'Furey to manage her 2013 reelection run. "The deeper I got in council, the more engaged I became in things that weren't campaigning," she explains. "I needed a campaign manager to take care of the details."

He did more than that. "I was encouraged to use different techniques," Briere says. "I had to have a Facebook page. He also said to put everything on postcard-sized materials, to decrease the number of words and increase the number of images,

that [O'Furey] was well thought of, and called him up."

"I went in and made my pitch," recalls O'Furey. "This is a new campaign in a big city, and you want an organization that can rise above all the confusion, a message that can unify the city."

O'Furey landed the gig and mobilized "a team of volunteers and interns organizing fundraising, organizing house parties, putting together talk packets for volunteers and for Christopher to knock on doors, and putting together a direct mail program. I designed the direct mail and ads and had those sent out to a very targeted list of voters—not just every registered voter."

"We knew the people who were go-

## CAMPAIGN MANAGER TO THE STARS



dates who didn't win.

"In the past, I've run my own campaigns with friends," says Petersen. O'Furey upped her game: "He did everything: advertising, messaging, and mailing. He designed everything. I wrote my own speeches, but we did the debate prep work together."

"I truly thought that our message was better," says the bearded O'Furey over coffee in the Espresso Royale on S. Main. "Working together for Ann Arbor's future," working together, not having squabbles on council, not having factions on council. We thought our message would resonate over what Jane Lumm had to offer. It didn't."

Though not yet thirty, O'Furey speaks with a mature authority—and deep passion. "I love local elections," he says. "They're an opportunity to debate important issues like the deer cull, development, and the future of our city." Thanks to his efforts, more Ann Arborites are engaging in those debates—and changing the balance of power on council.

**B**orn in Houston in 1988, he came to politics early. "When I was five or six years old," he recalls, "my grandmother would be sitting at the TV and yelling at George Bush senior."

In high school, "I went to my local Democratic club. I ended up being a pre-

### IS BRAD O'FUREY THE MOST POWERFUL UNELECTED PERSON IN ANN ARBOR POLITICS?

O'Furey with state rep Adam Zemke, circuit court judge Carol Kuhnke, and city council candidate Sally Hart Petersen. He also managed council runs for Sabra Briere, Julie Grand, and Kirk Westphal—but passed up Briere's mayoral campaign to work for Christopher Taylor.

car up—again. Something drew me to Ann Arbor, something I loved."

Working on Zemke's campaign, he met other people running for office. One day, walking downtown, he ran into circuit court candidate Carol Kuhnke, who told him, "I have to go to this event, and I have no idea who can be my campaign manager!" I said 'Let me see.'"

Four candidates were chasing the seat, and O'Furey saw Kuhnke as an underdog. But he took the job, dividing his time between the campaigns. Zemke won his primary for a safe Democratic seat. Kuhnke came in second in her nonpartisan contest, advancing to a general election showdown with the better-known Karl Fink. "I worked with Carol through the general election," O'Furey says, targeting some precincts for door-to-door campaigning and others for direct mail. "She won with 56 percent of the vote, becoming the first elected lesbian judge in the state of Michigan."

"It was at that moment that we saw the impact," O'Furey continues. "I've got this

and that was good."

The following year, Briere asked O'Furey to manage her mayoral campaign, but he declined: "He told me he was running Christopher Taylor's campaign. He thought Christopher had a better chance of winning. They were right."

**A**fter Briere, O'Furey ran a judicial campaign in Detroit, only to see the seat eliminated, and another local circuit court race, only to see his candidate, French-born Veronique Liem, lose to a candidate who literally grew up around the county courthouse—Pat Conlin, the son and grandson of circuit court judges. O'Furey also worked in 2014 for Alex Milshteyn when he ran for WCC's board of trustees—Milshteyn lost—and for Kirk Westphal and Julie Grand for city council—who both won.

But O'Furey's biggest campaign in 2014 was Christopher Taylor's. The mayor says he was "looking for assistance, knew

ing to vote, and we expanded that to the folks we wanted to come out and vote. We needed to turn out younger families and young professionals."

Easier said than done. "The only really effective way to reach young voters is through social media—Facebook, Twitter, maybe even Instagram—and [personal] networks," O'Furey says. "I'm not going to know about something unless someone I know says 'check this out.' Young voters may not read the newspaper. They definitely don't read the [MLive] comments section. They don't look at ads. They don't care about mail pieces."

The Taylor campaign identified prospective supporters using software from a progressive political consulting company. The idea, he says, was "Let's get ten young professionals together who aren't usually involved in politics and have them talk to their networks. Then let's get networks organized and engaged and have a young professionals event."

The get-together at the Last Word bar "was full of people from the start-up community. These sixty people aren't regular city council voters. They may be presidential voters, maybe even midterm voters, but they aren't people who come out for an August city council race because they don't feel like they have a stake in it. Young families and young professionals, Millennials, even Gen Xers, don't get involved in the process because we don't feel the process works for us."





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## CAMPAIGN MANAGER TO THE STARS

O'Furey engaged them with issues they care about: "affordable housing, transportation, public transportation—not just public transportation, but things like Uber and Lyft. That was what the Obama campaign did—talk about issues that would motivate young people to vote—and that's what we did. Affordability, parks, transportation: things that are important to a young family."

Of course, they reached out to other voters as well. "Taylor's campaign was very targeted, very scientific," O'Furey explains. They asked themselves, "What message do we send these voters, how do we reach those voters, what message resonates with these voters, retired versus young professional."

Didn't they figure the heir apparent to seven-term mayor John Hieftje was a shoo-in? "We didn't think so. We weren't taking anything for granted."

O'Furey says he worked twelve-to-fourteen-hour days, seven days a week for Taylor, but he doesn't claim sole credit for the victory. "I wasn't by any means the person who came up with all this stuff. There was a kitchen cabinet that would meet once a week and talk for hours. It was definitely a big group effort."

"Campaign managers block and tackle," says Taylor. "They administer the campaign, provide day-to-day staffing, assist with literature, make sure you have the palm cards you need, the turfs you



COURTESY BRAD O'FUREY

Nathan Furey and Brad O'Conner posed for pictures at the Law Quad after their wedding last summer. Combining their names, they're now the O'Fureys.





Along with his campaign work and his day job at Nutshell software, O'Furey volunteers as head of the Jim Toy Community Center—he says he was asked to get involved “because the gay community needs to evolve and incorporate younger members of the community, and not just younger members but transgender members, bisexual, pansexual, the whole alphabet of communities.”

need.” The mayor says he’d “absolutely” recommend O'Furey to any current or aspiring councilmember. But, he stresses, a campaign manager can only take a candidate so far.

“It’s a pretty simple process in the end,” the mayor says. “You are who you are, you believe what you believe, you have goals and you articulate those goals, you knock on doors and talk to people about their concerns and see what happens on the first Tuesday of August.”

**O**n the first Tuesday in November—which is when Sally Petersen lost to incumbent Jane Lumm.

“I approached her,” recalls O'Furey. “I saw the Second Ward needed a fresh voice that’s not so polarizing.”

Hoping to repeat his previous successes, O'Furey used personal networks

being out there, either, but “I had a lot of good mentors, a lot of the priests were very progressive, especially on homosexuality, and so they were a good source of support.”

At home, O'Furey’s older brother had already come out, “so it was a little easier”—though his mother worried that with two gay sons, she wouldn’t have any grandchildren. Now that his brother has a child, O'Furey adds, “she’s fine.”

O'Furey hopes to have kids of his own someday. “I want to send my kids to Ann Arbor schools and take them to Ann Arbor parks,” he says. “For a gay family, I have no issues being here or raising a family here.”

**T**hough politics is O'Furey’s passion, it’s not his living. He has a full-time job in sales development at Nutshell, which makes customer relationship

**“We knew the people who were going to vote, and we expanded that to the people we *wanted* to come out and vote,” O'Furey says. “We needed to turn out younger families and young professionals.”**

to invite prospective Petersen backers to a family picnic. “It was a great event,” he says. Yet his candidate got only 36 percent of the vote despite spending a record \$33,000 on the race. In the end, O'Furey says, “it didn’t make any difference. No matter how much money we spent trying to get our message out, other issues were more important.”

Yet Petersen, too, would recommend O'Furey’s services. “He’s a terrific guy,” Petersen says. “He’s quiet on the exterior, so you think he’s quite the tough guy. But he’s one of the sweetest people I know.”

When I ask O'Furey how he met his husband, the savvy political operative actually blushes slightly (it was at the Necto dance club). Nathan’s “mom was a stats teacher at Huron,” O'Furey explains. After three semesters at WCC, he’s transferring to the U-M in January to study data science and computer science.

O'Furey was raised as an evangelical Protestant. “Coming out in the far suburbs of Houston wasn’t easy,” he says. “A lot of the harassment was from friends that I went to junior high with. Oftentimes I would come out, and my car was egged, or ‘faggot’ was written on the house.”

He broke away by winning a scholarship to a Jesuit high school. It wasn’t easy

management software. “I was looking for a job that could sustain me and my family,” he explains. “Campaigning doesn’t do that.”

No kidding: He usually gets between \$250 and \$500 a month for a campaign’s duration—though Petersen paid him \$1,500 a month. He also has a volunteer gig as head of the Jim Toy Community Center—he says he was asked to get involved “because the gay community needs to evolve and incorporate younger members of the community, and not just younger members but transgender members, bisexual, pansexual, the whole alphabet of communities.”

O'Furey doesn’t know which politician he’ll work with next. “I’m not out there searching for the next campaign.”

He does know that Washtenaw County is the limit of his ambition. “I worked for Congressman Dingell as a field rep. I didn’t particularly like that. That was a little too not-local for me.”

Would he ever run as a candidate himself?

“I’m not one to put myself in front of the public,” he replies. “I’m generally a private person and like to stay behind the scenes, but I haven’t ruled it out.”

Then O'Furey adds with a rare small smile, “I’m not a very good politician.” ■

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# Winter Street & Sidewalk Care in Ann Arbor



*The goal is to treat all streets within 24 hours of an average 4" snowstorm*

The City of Ann Arbor's winter road maintenance objective is to provide surfaces that are safe to use at reasonable speeds. This does not always mean surfaces are cleared to bare pavement.

## PLOWING BASICS

- The city services 98 miles of major roads and 197 miles of residential streets.
- The goal is to treat/plow all streets within 24 hours of an "average" 4-inch snowstorm.
- Trunk lines, major roads and the next day's solid waste routes are plowed first.
- The city uses salt to treat trunk lines and major roads and a 95/5 percent sand/salt mixture for residential streets and other locations.
- Schools and privately owned lots and roads are not maintained by city crews.
- The city does not clear mail boxes of snow or ice.
- Plows often deposit snow or ice on sidewalks during normal plowing. Unfortunately there is no economical technology that allows the city to avoid this.

## SIDEWALKS

Residents and/or property owners are responsible for removing snow/ice from their adjacent sidewalks, crosswalk ramps and bus stops. Beginning this 2015–2016 winter, residents/property owners will receive only one warning, per season, before incurring fines.

■ **Residential Property:** are required to treat ice and to remove any accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch from adjacent sidewalks, bus stop and crosswalk ramps within 24 hours from the time snowfall ceases. Surfaces are required to remain clear and safe.

■ **Non-residential Property:** Owners are required to remove all snow and ice that has accumulated by 6 a.m. from sidewalks, bus stop or crosswalk ramps before noon on the same day.

## FREE SAND/SALT MIXTURE TO RESIDENTS

The city provides residents with up to 5 gallons of a sand/salt mixture, per visit to 721 N. Main St. or one of six park locations: Allmendinger, Buhr, Burns, Leslie and Veterans Memorial. Residents should bring their own shovel and bucket and load material themselves from the marked pile. This material is not for contractors. For more information, visit [a2gov.org/snow](http://a2gov.org/snow).

## REPORT A PROBLEM

To report excessive snow or ice on a street or sidewalk, please use the **A2 Fix It** app or report online via [a2gov.org/a2fixit](http://a2gov.org/a2fixit). To report a street by phone, please call **734.794.6320** between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. To report a sidewalk by phone, please call **734.794.6942** Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



visit [a2gov.org/snow](http://a2gov.org/snow)



*Ann Arbor* has a reputation as an environmentally progressive town when it comes to recycling services, bike lanes, and local organic food, but it's lagging behind when it comes to alternative ways of preparing and burying the dead.

The national Green Burial Council promotes "a way of caring for the dead with minimal environmental impact." A typical green burial might include refrigeration of the body instead of embalming; placing it in a fabric shroud or biodegradable casket of wood or wicker; and burial without a cement vault.

Cemeteries offering green burial may be groomed and orderly like a conventional cemetery, or rustic, with marked and unmarked graves among wildflowers, woods, and wildlife. But there is no green

burial in Ann Arbor: the city's public cemeteries, Arborcrest Memorial Park, Fairview Cemetery, and Forest Hill Cemetery, all require vaults.

Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor Township, just north of town on Whitmore Lake Rd., is the only nearby cemetery that's even considering it. Donna Campbell, a spokesperson for Midwest Memorial Group, which operates the cemetery, says, "It's been discussed, and it's in an exploratory phase right now, but no commitments."

*Merilynne Rush* is on the board of the Green Burial Council. A former nurse and birth midwife, Rush now helps families plan and carry out home funerals and green burials (see "A Full Moon Funeral," March 2013).

past year, about eight or nine of them were from the Ann Arbor area," says director Mike Mitchell.

Mitchell, who thinks he may be "the only licensed funeral director in the country with an environmental science degree," attributes the interest to baby boomers who grew up with the environmental movement and now want to carry its principles into old age and death.

"This is the oldest newest trend in funeral service," Mitchell says. "What people want is what we used to do before funeral homes were around. People want something that's very intimate and very personal. That's what we're able to do with home funerals and green burials."

For green burials, some locals are traveling all the way to Oakland County. In 2010, the Mt. Elliott Cemetery Association opened a certified natural cemetery

*Baby boomers want to carry their environmental principles into old age and death.*

work and coach the family on proper care for the body. "It was kind of the reverse of giving birth," Saratsis says. "Just being there and being present for her, preparing her body, the scents, the lotion, the bathing. For about an hour when she was still warm, we were able to hold her, touch her, and hug her. That letting go and preparing the body was an amazing experience."

More than 150 people came for the viewing. "Receiving people in my home was so natural," says Saratsis. "People

## A Natural End

Ann Arborites search far and wide for **green burials** and **funerals**.

by Laura Lyjak Crawford



MARK BIALEK

Toula Saratsis and Joe Stageman looked to Chelsea funeral director Mike Mitchell for help with their daughter Angelica's home funeral.

She also leads the monthly Death Cafe at Crazy Wisdom, where people come to "drink tea, eat cake, and talk about death."

In 2014, Rush helped organize a conference on green burial that brought nearly 200 people to the U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Now she and journalist Barbara Lucas lead a new group, the Ann Arbor Green Burial Network, that is circulating an online petition calling for more natural burial options.

"Natural burial is not more expensive. It's not more complex. It's very doable. Availability is one reason why people don't choose it," says Lucas, who produces the environmental program *The Green Room* for CTN and WEMU.

At a presentation in September, Lucas explained some of her environmental concerns: formaldehyde embalming has been shown to be harmful to funeral home workers; cremation is energy intensive and can send harmful emissions into the air; and both cemetery vaults and headstones are energy intensive to produce.

That made sense to attendee Sheila Johnson. "I'm just not happy with how we're doing funerals in our present culture," Johnson says. "I compost my vegetables, and I do everything I can to save resources. I seldom use my car, and I walk, bike, or take the bus. For environmental reasons the whole burial thing is very important to me."

Those concerns are leading some Ann Arborites to Chelsea, where Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home has been a certified green burial provider since 2006. "I'd estimate that of the ten or fifteen home funerals and green burials we did in the

in Waterford Township. The Preserve borders the traditional All Saints Cemetery, but it looks more like a nature preserve, with winding grass paths through indigenous-wildflower meadows. Some graves along the path are marked with stones and boulders; others farther into the meadow are unmarked.

Russ Burns, director of All Saints Cemetery and the Preserve, has twice held informational seminars in Ann Arbor. He says about thirty people attended each one, and seven Ann Arborites have already been buried at the Preserve.

*Toula Saratsis* and her husband, Joe Stageman, knew that their daughter Angelica would have a short life. She was born with a rare metabolic disorder and suffered physical limitations, developmental delays, and numerous medical complications before she died in August, just short of her seventh birthday. "She was a tenacious and brave spirit," says Saratsis.

"I'm Greek American, I have family in Greece, and I am used to home funerals. That's how it's been done, and still is. I knew that's what I wanted for Angelica."

"She suffered quite a bit during her life, and we wanted to be part of that final rite of passage."

When Saratsis saw an article by Rush a few years ago about home funerals, she clipped it and saved it. When her daughter started hospice care, she contacted Rush, who helped them plan a home funeral.

After Angelica's death, Mike Mitchell came to the home to prepare the paper-

were relaxed; there were kids in the house. It was like we had one of our parties, and she was there."

Mitchell returned later to transport Angelica's body to the funeral at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. Because her parents weren't concerned about using a vault, they were able to bury her at Bethlehem Cemetery near their home.

"It's so close that we walk to her grave almost daily, pray, give reverence, burn incense, and tend flowers, kind of hold space there," Saratsis says.

*Barbara Lucas* says she is still thinking through her options.

"I might donate my body to science; I might choose cremation," she says. "But I also like the idea of a headstone with my name on it in the cemetery near my home. The neighborhood has such a rich history, and the headstones in the cemetery are filled with the names of the people that the streets are named after."

"It makes sense to me that the people who live here should be buried here. The reasons the cemetery has given me for not allowing burial without a vault aren't insurmountable," she says, noting that the older graves in her neighborhood cemetery don't have vaults.

"When you think about the history of the human race, people have been buried in the ground without a fancy coffin and without a fancy vault."

"What's good enough for them would be good for me too."







# Restaurant Reviews

## Grizzly Peak

As time goes by

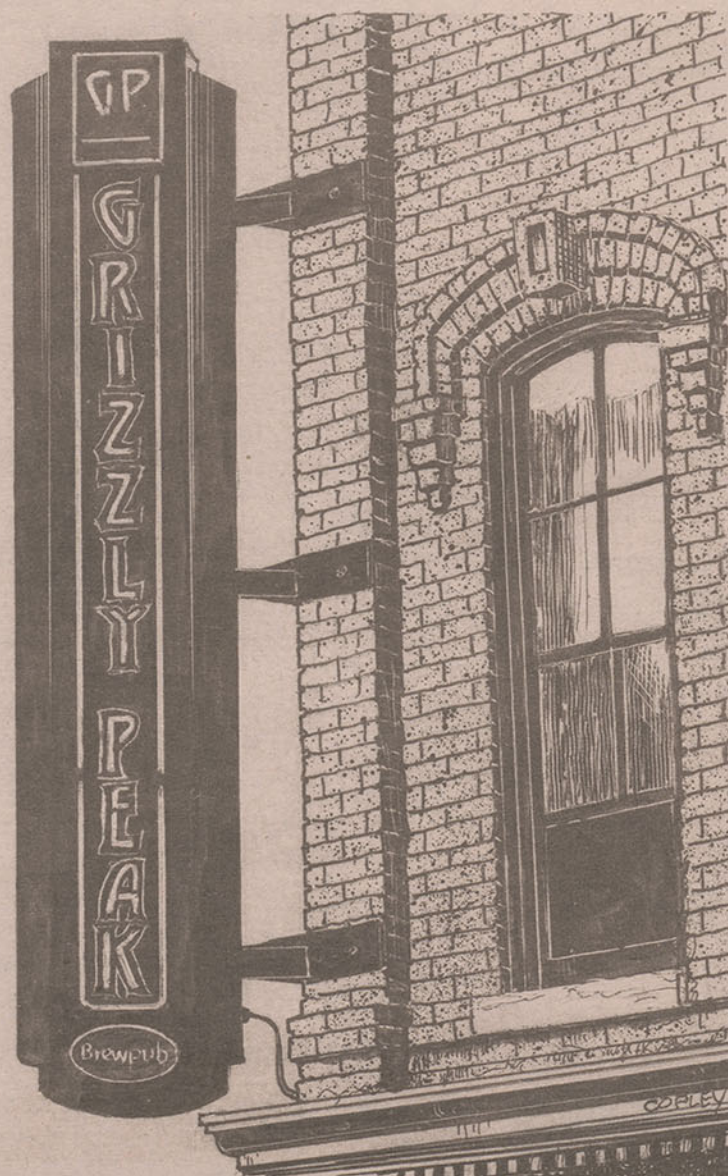
In fall 2015, Grizzly Peak Brewing Company marked several significant milestones in interesting ways. Aficionados celebrated the 4,000th batch of beer brewed at the Washington St. pub with a hoppy but balanced "4K" rotating tap. Another special batch honored collaborative brewing over two decades with local artisans at Jolly Pumpkin, Milan's Original Gravity, and beyond. Some spiffing-up went on inside (including shiny copper tabletops), the menus now come on hefty wood planks with hulking lumberjack graphics, and a new sign hangs over the corner of Washington and Ashley.

What's on that menu also got a twentieth-anniversary refresh. My family logged a lot of cheery meals here when the kids were growing up, and we noticed some absences. GP's calamari appetizer, tender little tentacles and rings with a perfect dusting of breading, were our young sons' teething rings for what's become a passionate love of seafood. It will be missed. On the other hand, we'll get along fine without the quesadilla—once a go-to item, it now feels last-millennium.

Overall, the menu is even more diverse now. My first taste of the new fare was very tasty and crispy truffle fries, in a perfect size for two to share. In fact, one could forage through a truffle-oil feast here, starting with the fries; moving on to truffled pizza with summer squash, ricotta, and grilled lemon; and topping out with truffled mac and cheese (I didn't, because the fries were just right).

I also enjoyed the charismatic spicy Cuban pork sliders piled high with pickles, slaw, and cilantro lime aioli. You'll find them under "Starters and Shares" on the menu, but these \$10 tall beauties could be a deal of a meal for one, and a perfect accompaniment to several of the easy-drinking house craft beers.

Some of the most appealing new offerings are also the most subtle—like a sur-



prisingly delicate harissa-spiced couscous salad, gently built on spring greens with red-onion marmalade and curry vinaigrette. It's totally Zen and a steal as a \$4 side to an entrée. There's also a nice kale salad with toasted walnuts, Granny Smith apples, and lemony vinaigrette. Next time, though, I'll skip the optional four-ounce salmon "protein" addition—it brought oiliness to the otherwise fresh flavors.

Polenta fries come in a hefty tower; each one is the size of an inch-high stack of Monopoly money, crunchy on the outside, soft inside, and rich all through. They perked up with sweetly sharp house-made catsup, but still got boring before we finished. Among entrées, the buttery roasted vegetable ravioli is filling comfort food. The fish and meat options are many, topping out with steak.

One of my favorite things about going to Grizzly Peak on cold winter evenings is the same as it ever was: the coziness of being nestled into a

tall-backed booth near the fiery pizza oven. The buzz of activity and constant stream of traffic makes you feel snug and just a little smug.

The artisan pizzas have been tweaked, and three of the six combos now have some sort of fruit among the toppings. Our chicken bruschetta pie seemed more meh than pizzas from years past, partly because hot new spots like Mani and NeoPapolis have raised the bar downtown.

You could say the same about the current state of craft beer. Coincidentally (or not?), Arbor Brewing Company, downtown's other brewpub pioneer, is also embarking on a third-decade renovation. It will close January 11 for about a week while the change-over happens.

If that sends more traffic to Grizzly Peak, these pros should be up to it. With the new Old German downstairs and the old Del Rio absorbed next door, there's plenty of room for TV game-watching patrons, after-work gatherings, and most imaginable sizes of parties.

If Grizzly Peak's menu refresh seems more catch-up than visionary step-out, consider the volume of patrons they're serving, and the likely volume of preferences. And there's still plenty new to explore. The reportedly popular "2 AM burger," topped with fried pickles, bacon, and fondue-style cheese sauce, sounds like more than I can handle, but maybe I can enlist my sons again next time they're in town.

—M.B. Lewis

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# MarketplaceChanges

by Sally Mitani

## eve-olution

*Eve the restaurant is back.*

On December 2, Eve Aronoff Fernandez rambled merrily around her brand-new restaurant, **eve**, in her chef whites and a baseball cap, looking completely at home. It was the invitation-only “pre-opening celebration.” A buffet offered up quail drumsticks, tofu “napoleons,” and curried mussels. Waiters dispensed bubbly and took orders for cocktails with names like “pistachio rose.” A Community High School jazz combo played Duke Ellington softly. Led by her godson, senior Luc LePottier, they sounded like seasoned professionals, and Aronoff Fernandez hopes to make them a regular feature. As old friends drifted in and out, she confessed to “feeling some nostalgia.” She’s missed the big stage—the full-on dinner restaurant with a hefty price tag.

Restaurants often drill their waitstaff and cooks for weeks, staging various events for friends and family to insure a professionally snappy opening, but Aronoff Fernandez didn’t feel the need for it—she was mainly throwing a party to show off the joint and generate a little buzz. And it worked: the place successfully opened to a full house a few nights later.

Like its predecessor of the same name in Kerrytown from 2003 to 2010, **eve** is Bauhaus-simple in looks—streamlined, white, gray, and silver. One reason opening night went so smoothly is that it is heavily staffed by loyal returnees like Jose Dominguez (“he’s the very first person I hired at **eve**, and now he’s essentially a partner,” she says) and maitre d’ Natalie Nichols, who left the French Laundry in California to work for **eve** again. Also back is Carlos Fernandez, who “used to work with us at **eve** just before we closed and now is here in all capacities—kitchen, bar, errand running.” He and Eve were married over the summer. “We make a good team,” she says.

Aronoff Fernandez closed her Kerrytown restaurant around the time she opened Frita Batidos on Washington. She had broken her back on a trip to Honduras, and two restaurants was too much for her (her back is still an issue—she can’t stand in one place for very long).

There has always been a posh restaurant in her new space—the Bell Tower is a jewel box of a hotel, and Hill Auditorium across the street would seem to lock in a well-heeled customer base. But it’s not a gimme. Mercy’s, and before that Escoffier and the Earle Uptown all struggled in the spot, frequently changing tactics and menus. Aronoff Fernandez knows Steve



Eve Aronoff Fernandez missed the big stage after closing her original dinner spot in Kerrytown. Now she’s back at the Bell Tower Hotel.

and Mercy Kasle, the owners of Mercy’s, well. In fact, the Kasles were the final owners of the Kerrytown Bistro, the restaurant that predated **eve**’s Kerrytown location.

“I don’t know if we’re just drawn to the same places or what,” laughs Aronoff Fernandez. “Anyway, we’ve inherited stuff from them, and they’ve been wonderful about showing us the space, all the secrets and tricks.”

Aronoff Fernandez is the queen of slow food. “I’ve definitely evolved as a person and as a chef. I’m bringing back favorites from [the old] **eve**,” like “simple fish.” She says she’s more vegetable based than before, and insists on sustainable farming practices.

And she’s also offering breakfast. The Bell Tower has always operated a break-

fast service for its guests, but Aronoff Fernandez is the first to open it up to the public. She’s already offering “a very simple breakfast buffet” seven days a week for \$12; she expects to add weekend brunch in the next month or two.

**eve** the restaurant, 300 S. Thayer (Bell Tower Hotel), 222-0211. Dinner Tues.–Thurs. & Sun. 5–10 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 5–11 p.m. (Closed Mon. for dinner.) Breakfast Mon.–Fri. 7–10 a.m., Sat. & Sun. 7–11 a.m. [everestaurant.com](http://everestaurant.com)

## Yarn Over Ann Arbor

*Two knitting shops open in one week.*

On December 1, Carol and Peter Sickman-Garner opened **Spun**, in Kerrytown, across from Mudpuddles Toys, and the customers poured



When **Spun** opened, Kerrytown had been without a yarn shop for a couple of decades. Opening day was so busy that owners Carol and Peter Sickman-Garner barely had time to talk.

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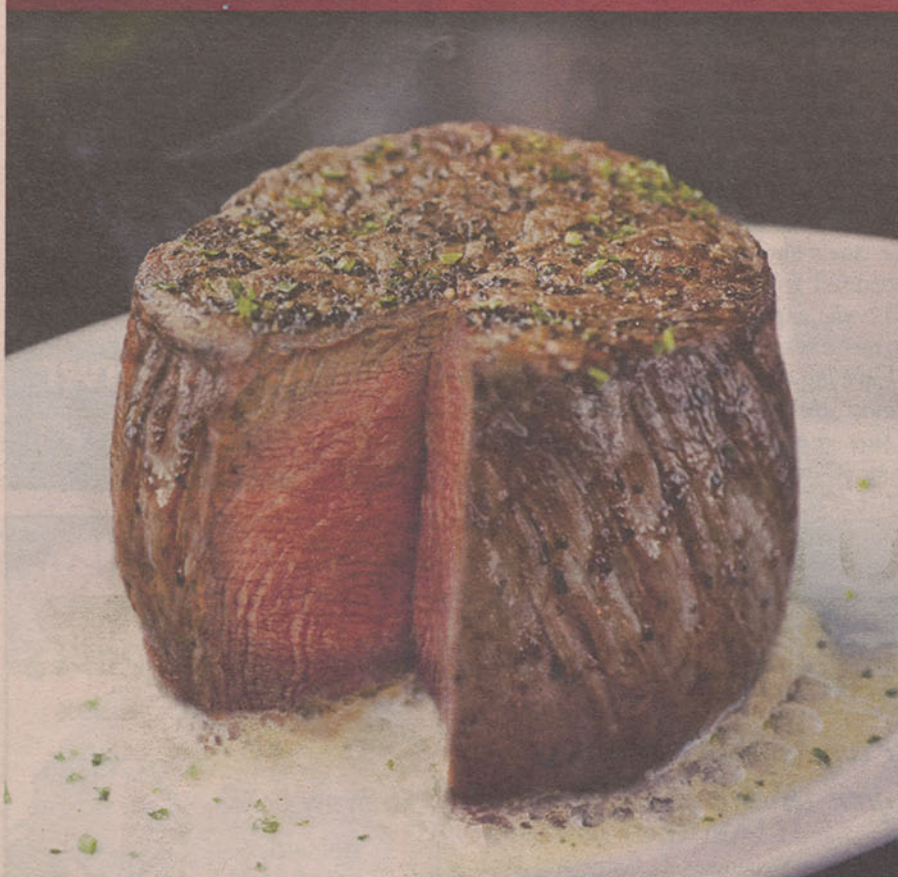


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Kate Ernsting refocused her former Westgate shop, Ophir Crafts, into Ophir Yarn in Maple-Miller Plaza.

in. Overwhelmingly women—Carol says that male knitters and crocheters have visited the store, but there didn't seem to be any that day—they were otherwise a diverse bunch, ranging from pierced, tattooed teenagers with spray-painted purple and blue hair to elderly blue-haired granies. In between were an encouraging number of soigné middle-aged bourgeoisie dropping the kind of big bucks that pay the rent in a premium location.

A few older customers spoke fondly of the legendary Wild Weft, one of Kerrytown's early tenants, which supplied serious knitters and weavers until 1985. When WW closed, the less ambitious Yarn Expressions took over a fraction of its space until it closed in the mid-1990s, leaving Kerrytown without a yarn shop for a couple of decades.

Most visitors on Spun's opening day didn't know Wild Weft. They talked about driving to Plymouth for yarn or asked each other why and when Busy Hands or Knit A Round, the two most recent local yarn shops here, bit the dust. A tall redhead asked if Spun sold gift certificates. When answered in the affirmative, she said she would send her husband in to get her one: "He usually buys me jewelry for Christmas, but I'd rather have yarn." That raised a few eyebrows—even knitters know yarn isn't a very sexy present. "He has terrible taste in jewelry," the woman added, and several women laughed and nodded in recognition.

And why are we spending so much time describing the customers? Because although the Sickman-Garners had scheduled an interview, they were so overrun by opening day traffic they didn't have time to talk. It took two people—Carol Sickman-



Garner and Kate Remen-Wait—to staff the cash register, while Peter wound yarn. (A lot of higher-end yarn comes in hanks that yarn shops will wind into more manageable balls, but the machinery is hand-cranked and labor-intensive.) Carol pointed out a fourth employee: “Christine Craig—she’s over there showing a customer how to darn.” Darning? Seriously? In 2015? And though Carol was trying to help at the register, she was periodically pulled onto

*A devout Catholic, Ernsting met her yarn buyer, Barbra “the Buddhist” Stewart, through their mutual hairdresser, Safa Hassan-Shahin (a Muslim, to complete the picture of diversity).*

the floor by well-wishers and people with questions.

Carol did manage to field a few of our questions, like who knit all the sweaters on display. A lot of them are knit by Craig: “She test-knits and does pattern support on a national level. She knits like the wind, and beautifully.” Others were knit by Carol, and a particularly beautiful sweater came from Sarah Freitas, a Detroit hand-dyer whose Fiberstory yarns are sold here. And those little project bags by the register are to hang over your wrist so you can knit while walking. Remen-Wait says, “I saw it for the first time in Europe. It’s a trend there.”

Spun, 407 N. Fifth Ave., 780-7867. Mon.-Thurs. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (hours will change slightly during Farmers Market season). [spunamarbor.com](http://spunamarbor.com)

The connections that Kate Ernsting forges are random but robust. One of the things that crept into our 2013 interview when she opened Ophir Crafts in Westgate was a story of how she, a devout Catholic, met “Barbra the Buddhist,” her yarn buyer and artist-in-residence (aka Barbra Stewart). They were introduced by their mutual hairdresser, Safa Hassan-Shahin (a Muslim, to complete the picture of diversity). “We always had good conversations there,” says Ernsting. “There’s something about taking time for yourself that leads to conversation. And we’d always look around and see girls getting ready for proms and weddings.”

Now they’re together all day long at her relocated and slightly refocused store **Ophir Yarn**, on the backside of Miller-Maple Plaza (behind Juicy Kitchen and El Harissa Market Cafe), where Ernsting talked Hassan-Shahin into splitting a space with her. Ophir and Safa’s Salon & Day Spa opened side by side in the first week of December, their spaces flowing into each other, so you can buy a ball of yarn and some knitting needles and start a

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## Marketplace Changes

scarf while getting your hair done, or wander over to learn to crochet while your hair dries.

Not an experienced retailer in 2013, Ernsting says, "We opened too many things. We weren't focused enough." Her mission then and now is to get people sitting down together and away from the distractions of technology. Her original store offered a number of fair-trade goods as well as crafting supplies. After a few years at Westgate, she concluded that she was perhaps trying to sell an overly complicated idea.

This time around, "It's a neighborhood yarn shop. We're trying to reach all the people that could be in crafts and *not* just the high-end," she stresses, acknowledging that the trend toward artisanal, local, hand-dyed wool can be scary for the non-rich. "If a beginner comes, I'm not going to say, 'Here's a thirty-dollar skein of yarn.'"

For a beginner project, she might suggest Brown Sheep Lamb's Pride. At \$9 a skein, "there's definitely enough for a scarf." Though she modestly calls it a neighborhood yarn shop, she recently sold thirty skeins of Stonehedge Crazy to Deborah Asimov, wife of *New York Times* wine writer Eric Asimov. Stonehedge is made in East Jordan, Michigan, and "Crazy" is what it sounds like—made from mill ends, no two skeins are alike.

Though the shop is renamed for the yarn in it (the other name, Ophir, is a mythical pre-Christian trading post in the Middle East), Ernsting's conversation seems to always veer toward a larger mission. She sees Ophir as a place for crafters to gather informally, and more formally for classes and private coaching sessions in knit, crochet, and dry felting. "I want people to know themselves and love each other, and it's pretty hard to do in this culture. You see families in restaurants where everyone is playing with their own computer or device."

Ernsting's husband, Gary, is more of a presence than he was in the Westgate shop. He had a stroke in the summer of 2014, which affected his left side, and they learned that knitting is good therapy for recovering bilateral motor skills. "He does finger knitting," says Kate, who demonstrates by grabbing a ball of extra-bulky yarn and quickly starting a three-stitch-wide scarf using only her fingers. Their daughter Terry, now living in Washington state, is represented by the knit and crochet patterns that she designs for beginners.

Ernsting says by the time of her grand opening the third week of January she will have settled on permanent hours. At press time she had decided to try the schedule below, hoping the early morning opening might bring in early birds to knit over a cup of coffee, and leaving the early afternoon free for classes and private coaching.

Ophir Yarn, 1522 N. Maple (Miller-Maple Plaza), 794-7777. Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-noon and 3-7:30 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., closed Sun. except by appointment. ophircrafts.com

## Briefly Noted

David Fromhold, owner of an indoor vertical farm called **Wheatgrass Depot**, is not surprisingly an evangelist of wheatgrass juice, but even he says no one drinks the stuff for the flavor. "People who say they love the taste of wheatgrass juice will probably lie about other things too." A shot of it, he avers, is the equivalent of eating two-and-a-half pounds of vegetables. Some people (including him) claim it cures cancer. Bright green and murky, it's the tongue-shriveling taste equivalent of staring directly at the sun. Fromhold advises squirting a wedge of lemon into a dose of it, which—a measure of how potent this stuff is—actually tones down the brightness a notch or two.

He says the main thing is to get it fresh. "Because our product is so perishable, we developed a model to get it to the customer within twenty-four hours of harvest." That's anywhere in the state, but if you live in Ann Arbor, you can also order online and pick it up right where it's grown, in a warehouse on Phoenix Dr.

The Wheatgrass Depot website explains how to do that. Fromhold eventually hopes to herd his clientele into regular subscriptions, so he can better match his supply with his demand. At the moment, though, he's taking about any order he can get—place the order online and pick it up as soon as the next day. A pound of freshly cut grass, which will supply ten to twelve ounces of drinkable sunshine, costs \$14 (he takes orders for as little as a half-pound). "At Whole Foods and places like that, it's about thirty dollars a pound," he says. Moreover, he claims that the wheatgrass and wheatgrass shots sold in other places aren't as fresh or as cleanly sourced; his grass is squeaky clean and organic, and lab-tested for salmonella and E. coli (mandated by the Department of Agriculture, though he claims "almost nobody does" it). Fromhold adds that he will not re-harvest—a patch of grass loses a high percentage of its nutrients the second time around. "You can always tell if it's re-harvested—just check to see if the blades are flat on both sides." He also grows and sells pea greens and sunflower shoots for the same price, "but wheatgrass is really the magic."

His wheatgrass, pea greens, and sunflower shoots are sold only in raw form. The pea and sunflower can be eaten plain or juiced in a Vitamix or blender, but wheatgrass has a protocol all its own. "You have to juice it, and you do need a masticating juicer" that grinds and extracts the juice. "A blender or a Vitamix will just chop it up in small pieces." His website of-

*"People who say they love the taste of wheatgrass juice will probably lie about other things too," Fromhold says.*



## CHEF'S TABLE

by Harriet Seaver

Unless you roasted, peeled and froze many pounds during their peak this summer, tomatoes may seem an unlikely topic for the month of January. However, we know how long winters can get you down here in Michigan, and sometimes you just need a reminder of fresh flavors even though it's freezing outside. As such, we work with what we have.

Like slow cooking a tough piece of meat, roasting and/or slow simmering our January tomatoes can help cover a multitude of sins. We are introducing a new vegetarian torta this month with roasted eggplant and slow-simmered tomato jam, which is a great example of both. We also roast all the tomatoes that go into our tomato soup. If you haven't tried it yet, you should; both the roasting and the soup.

I will admit to being one of those who managed to make and freeze tomato sauce this summer from heirlooms (I mix any variety I can get my hands on). I'll use this, along with canned tomatoes, for sauces to achieve my desired flavor. But if you are making sauces and must use only what is available now, try adding a little wine for sweetness and salted butter to enhance that latent tomato flavor.

## FATHER TEQUILA

by Jeremy Seaver

A big part of my goal in writing this column every month has always been to help rehab the image of tequila. So often people tell me, "Oh, I haven't had tequila since I was in college." My response to that is, "You probably weren't drinking tequila then either." I hope that doesn't sound too pretentious, but it's true. Many of us in college could have cared less about what we were drinking and more about how much we could drink and how fast we could drink it. I know I did. As such, our beer came in 30-packs and our tequila in plastic jugs or, perish the thought, with a plastic sombrero cap. Well, that wasn't what I would call beer, and that certainly wasn't tequila. There isn't anything wrong with that phase in life, but as I got a little older and a little more mature (OK, a lot older but still only a little more mature), I discovered that I could actually enjoy the taste of the tequila I was drinking. I didn't need to shoot it, or chug it, or whatever. I should sip it. I could appreciate the smell of old leather,



the burnt citrus, mint and honey flavors of a good añejo tequila. Which good añejo tequila, you ask? Well, for the cold month of January, I recommend Tres Agaves Añejo. It is a superb sipping tequila at a good price point that a beginner can enjoy and an expert can appreciate. And for New Year's, I recommend you resolve to stop drinking... bad tequila. Salud!

## SALSAS & SAUCES

by Tim Seaver

I think the best tomatoes to use in salsa are heirloom Romas. I've only been able to find them at the summer farmer's market, which won't help you right now, but keep it in mind as the season approaches. Roma's are the best because they are meaty with fewer seeds. Any heirloom tomato is better than the more commonly grown varieties. Try not to refrigerate the tomatoes (or allow them to come to room temperature before use) and only make enough salsa to be eaten that day.

There are so many recipes for salsa everywhere. Just use the freshest and highest quality ingredients you can. Heirloom vegetables are often misshapen and ugly, but looks aren't everything; it's what is underneath that counts.



## BAKER'S CORNER

by Jessie Seaver

Sun dried tomatoes are my absolute favorite way to enjoy tomatoes out of season. You can find them at the grocery store, or you can be adventurous and make them yourself. You don't need any special equipment—just an oven. If you have a food dehydrator it does save you time, but it's not necessary. You can use any tomato variety available, but Roma's are best because they contain less water and are meatier.

Preheat the oven to 150 degrees and arrange the tomatoes on wire racks placed on top of foiled baking sheets, spaced out so they are not touching. At this point you can season the tomatoes. I usually drizzle olive oil and sprinkle sea salt on them, but you can use any dried spices you like. Now it's waiting time. It usually takes 10 to 15 hours, and you must flip the tomatoes periodically to expose both sides. When done, the tomatoes should be similar in texture to raisins, soft and chewy but not brittle. Store them in a zip-lock bag and enjoy all winter.



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## Marketplace Changes

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Fromhold, originally from Midland, started his wheatgrass business in Florida but came back to Michigan when his father was diagnosed with Parkinson's. His father still lives in Midland, but Fromhold says, "Midland would never sustain this business."

Orders placed online can also be picked up at a few other locations in town, like Salads UP and Ray's Red Hots, but Fromhold cautions that those locations are for pickup only—"they're not there to answer questions." If you want to learn or talk about wheatgrass, arrange your pickup at Phoenix Dr. and talk to Fromhold himself.

Wheatgrass Depot, 858 Phoenix Dr., 258-7943. Pickup hours Tues.-Fri. 6-9 p.m. (or by appt.). wheatgrassdepot.com

Who doesn't like mom-and-pop delis? A guy named Matthew Corrin. He started Freshii in 2005 because he was sick of all the mom-and-pop delis in New York, where he was working for Oscar de la Renta. The fashion industry does not smile kindly on the regular consumption of thick pastrami sandwiches.

This was explained by Mustafa Hamade, owner of Ann Arbor's first Freshii franchise, only the third in Michigan. A trim, energetic business grad of U-M Dearborn, Hamade says while he was getting his degree he was independently studying health and wellness. He's scouting a location to open another Freshii on campus here, but this one is located in Briarwood mall, across from California Pizza Kitchen. The small, white lunch counter with photos of fruits and veggies on the wall isn't the twenty-seven-year-old's first sandwich shop. He also owns a Subway franchise in Livonia, which he is currently trying to sell. "I don't believe in their product," he says flatly. "Yeah, sure, you can go ahead and say that."

He does believe in Freshii, pronounced "freshy." Hamade doesn't know what the second *i* is for. Maybe those two dots subliminally suggest something clean, healthy, and vaguely Scandinavian, like a smörgasbord? Or something you do after a sauna (the Finnish language uses double *i*'s)? The Freshii menu is friendly to all kinds of diets: vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, and regular old carnivorous, but you'd have to work hard to get something that's not good for you. The chain, originally called Lettuce Eatery, started out as "ninety-eight percent salads," he says, but branched out into wraps, soups, and bowls of various grains. Freshii also sells a one-, three-, or five-day juice-cleanse regimen: "A lot of people do this right after the holidays."

Freshii (Briarwood), 995-3008. freshii.com

In December, congratulations were in the air at Stadium Hardware. Mike Kruzel, soon to retire, was giving nearly everyone who walked into the store a bear

hug or a slap on the back. His tongue was a little looser than usual too. Asked how two hardware stores—his and Ace Hardware—survive when they're practically on top of each other, he laughed heartily and said, "Ace is totally different. People call it the 'girls' hardware store.' And it's *girls*—*women*—who call it that. Not guys." He elaborates: "Well, you know, they are two different stores personality-wise and product-wise. They have the kitchen stuff, decorations, that kind of fancy crap!"

Kruzel sold his share of the store to employee Brian Bennick. Mark Mayne, also retiring from the business, sold his share to another longtime store employee, James Brustad. Mayne has been a partner since Kruzel's father-in-law, John Siller, stole him away from another hardware store in town in the late Seventies. Skip Hackbarth, a partner in the store since 1999, will remain. Kruzel married into the store in 1983 when he wed Siller's daughter Karis. He says: "I'm an Ypsi kid. Before this, I had a couple of bait stores with my brother."

That brother, Bob, will continue to work at Stadium. "Nah, I'm not ready to retire," he says, even though he's older than Mike. "I wouldn't know what to do with myself."

Stadium Hardware, 2177 W. Stadium Blvd. 663-8704. Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

According to the dippy TV ad narrated by actor John Corbett, Walgreens resides "at the corner of happy and healthy," but, out in the real world, the one at the corner of Jackson and Maple has been pretty rapacious. It recently devoured the nearby Village Pharmacy, and when it went up a few years ago, it was clearly throwing down the gauntlet to the Rite Aid across the street in Westgate. Customers at that Rite Aid have been asking what is going to happen to it, assuming Walgreens' acquisition of Rite Aid goes through without a hitch (among other things, it needs to pass an antitrust review). Rite Aid employees are telling customers that the sale won't officially happen until the end of 2016, and then the Westgate store will slowly be phased out.

## Closing

Kai Garden closed, and owners Dan (Kai) Tus and his wife, Tina, who worked the front of the house, have retired. Last year Ed Shaffran bought the Main St. building that has housed Kai Garden for twenty years. Dan and Tina have had the business on the market for a year, Shaffran says, with no takers. "The lease runs another four and a half years, until April of 2020," but because it's a restaurant space, "it's not as cut-and-dried as if it were an office space. There are a lot of moving parts to the scenario. If it's not going to continue as an Asian restaurant, we need to talk about improvements to the building."

Got a retail or restaurant change? Email sallymitani@gmail.com, or leave voicemail at (734) 769-3175 x 309.



# The Zingerman's Times

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January 2016

Printed in Ann Arbor

Land of a thousand flavors

January  
Roaster's Pick



**full bloom - brazil**

Since opening their doors in 2003, Zingerman's Coffee Company has been working with Brazil's renowned Daterra Estate. This coffee is richly sweet with flavors of milk chocolate, plum, and caramel.

**Cheese of the Month**  
**Great Lakes**  
**cheshire**

**\$25.99**  
(reg. \$29.99)

This British-inspired classic is made with super rich, unpasteurized Jersey cow's milk from a local farm. The raw milk imparts lovely, subtle earthy flavors and the dense, slightly crumbly texture of this cheese is just phenomenal.



**Bread of the Month**  
**rustic italian round**

\$4.50/ea. (reg. \$6.29)

The best-selling, versatile bread has a beautiful white crumb and a golden brown crust. From panini to PB&J, this bread does it all.



**Zingerman's**  
422 Detroit St.  
734.663.3354

**Zingerman's**  
**roadhouse**  
2501 Jackson Rd.  
734.663.FOOD

**Zingerman's**  
**Cornman**  
**FARMS**  
8540 Island Lake Rd.  
Dexter  
734.619.8100

**Zingerman's**  
**Catering**  
**and**  
**Events**  
422 Detroit St.  
734.663.3400

**Zingerman's**  
**BAKEHOUSE**  
3711 Plaza Dr.  
734.761.2095

**Zingerman's**  
**mail order**  
610 Phoenix Dr.  
888.636.8162

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734.930.1919

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3723 Plaza Dr.  
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**COMPANY**  
3723 Plaza Dr.  
734.929.6060

**Zingerman's**  
**CANDY**  
**MANUFACTORY**  
3711 Plaza Dr.  
734.761.2095

www.Zingermans.com

## According to Tradition, Times Readers Ring in the New Year with the Balsamic Blowout at Zingerman's Deli!

those in the know stock up now on aged vinegars for a flavorful year

### Sixteen Year Aged Balsamic in an Oak Barrel

La Vecchia Dispensa's cooper has fashioned a few small, seasoned oak barrels filled with over a quart of Zingerman's exclusive sixteen year aged balsamic.

Use the glass dropper to rescue a bit of balsamic for salads or strawberries. Kept sealed, it'll last indefinitely and get better with time.

Quantities very limited.

reg. \$400, ON SPECIAL \$200

### 8 YEAR AGED

A kitchen standard, at an unbeatable price.

reg. \$25,  
ON SPECIAL \$20

"I love gourmet purveyor Zingerman's for all the treats—sweet, savory and otherwise—it carries."

— Charles Passy, Wall Street Journal

### 10 YEAR AGED

Zingerman's best selling balsamic. Beautifully packaged, complexly flavored, experts say it's the most intense vinegar of its age.

reg. \$35,  
ON SPECIAL \$25

### 30 YEAR AGED

With much of the flavor of balsamics that cost twice as much, this is a great deal for a great vinegar.

reg. \$50,  
ON SPECIAL \$30

Stop at Zingerman's Delicatessen to see and sample the full Balsamic selection. Or ship specially priced balsamic vinegars coast to coast at [www.zingermans.com](http://www.zingermans.com)



## Times Reporters Bust Open Top Secret Code to Save Local Business Leaders \$\$\$

A secret code has been leaked to local managers, business owners and leaders who are trying to figure out how to change lives, make a better workplace AND save \$250 on 2-day seminar at ZingTrain.

The unparalleled reporting coup revealed that using the discount code **OBSERVER** while registering at [www.zingtrain.com](http://www.zingtrain.com) will give all registrants \$250 off a 2-day ZingTrain seminar. ZingTrain is the Ann Arbor training company committed to teaching Zingerman's unique approach to business.

"I just can't tell you how thankful we are to have had you walk the journey with us over the last few years, from Missions and Passions to Vision to Giving Exceptional Service. You can't imagine the impact you have had on our little accounting firm down here in Dallas by guiding us through this process. You have quite seriously changed people's lives and made them better by helping create a much better place to work. So thankful to have met you and ZingTrain!"

—Chris McKee, Managing Partner, Venturity Financial Partners



## Candy Lovers Resolve to Eat More Chocolate Covered Peanut Brittle!

Industry insiders are predicting a new trend towards handmade small-batch, old-fashioned candy after people get their first taste of Zingerman's Chocolate-Covered Peanut Brittle at a special price! For January only, the 2 oz. package is available for \$2 – and candy lovers say it's a wonderful start to the new year!

"This light, airy, crunchy confection, handmade in small batches, features all the deep butterscotch flavor of traditional brittle but none of the teeth-cracking stickiness," notes Oprah's O magazine. Starting with Jumbo Runner peanuts toasted in sugar with butter, sea salt, and real vanilla, the sugar's cooked long enough to have complex caramel flavors to crunch when munched. It's hand pulled for maximum brittleness and crispiness. Then the peanut brittle is coated in Zingerman's Candy Company's own blend of luscious 62% dark chocolate.



Times readers can taste the difference for themselves at Zingerman's Delicatessen, Bakehouse, Coffee Company and Roadhouse. Order online at [www.zingermans.com](http://www.zingermans.com).



## Reports of Double Vision Traced to Local Catering Company

rise in cases result from buy one, get one for half price promotion

Local readers tell the Times they are seeing twice as much full-flavored food when they place an order for pick up or delivery from Zingerman's Catering this winter. Eye witnesses have confirmed they are getting a second order of equal or lesser value for half off, through the end of February.



For more information, call 734.663.3400 or visit [www.zingermanscatering.com](http://www.zingermanscatering.com) for details or to place an order now!



# Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey

Listings are based on information available at press time. Up-to-date schedules are posted at [AnnArborObserver.com](http://AnnArborObserver.com), but it may be advisable to call ahead. Times are noted only if they differ from the default showtimes listed in the description of each club.

## The Alley

2830 Baker Rd., Dexter 426-4707

This bar and grill (until recently known as Katie's Food & Spirits) features live music Fri. & Sat. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., and occasional other nights. Also, DJ on Wed. 8-10 p.m. and karaoke on Tues. & Thurs. 9 p.m.-1:30 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Jan. 31: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late 1930s swing and 1940s R&B. With vocalist Jim Paravantes. 6:30-9 p.m.

## The Ark

316 S. Main 761-1451

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional and roots music and contemporary songwriting. Shows almost every night at 8 p.m., Mon.-Sat., & 7:30 p.m., Sun. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are sold in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office ([mutotix.com](http://mutotix.com)) and [theark.org](http://theark.org), and at the door. **Jan. 2: The Yellow Room Gang.** In-the-round performances by this group of 8 award-winning veteran Michigan songwriters who get together regularly to share their new work. Members are David Barrett, Jim Bizer, Annie Capps, Kitty Donohoe, Jan Krist, Matt Watroba, and Michael Hough & David Tamulevich of the local duo Mustard's Retreat. Last year the Yellow Room Gang released the compilation CD *Decade* in celebration of its 10th anniversary. \$20. **Jan. 3: Gemini.** The popular local acoustic duo of twin brothers Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits presents a program (for adults) that includes songs by many of the artists who have inspired them—from Woody Guthrie to Dylan and the Beatles, along with their own songs and poetry they've set to music. They are likely to be joined on some pieces by San's 20-year-old daughter Emily on violin and vocals. Opening act is Duo Mosaic, the local duo of violinist Henrik Karapetyan and cellist Martin Torch-Ishii. They play a richly varied repertoire of traditional dance music that ranges from tangos, waltzes, and jigs to klezmer, Gypsy, and American folk music, and they recently released their debut CD, *Midnight Dances*. \$15. **Jan. 6: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. \$3 (members & students, \$2). **Jan. 7: Aguanko.** Local Afro-Cuban jazz ensemble led by composer-percussionist Alberto Nacif. With percussionists Jose "Pepe" Espinosa and Javier Barrios, pianist Wesley Reynoso, bassist Pat Prouty, saxophonist and flutist Russell Miller, trumpeter Paul Finkbeiner, and trombonist Chris Smith. "There is something undefinably and indescribably joyous about Nacif's music... A sense of collective joy—the joy of creation, the joy of camaraderie and collaboration, and the simple joy of music—bubbles up from the chirping percussion and sunny brass of the opening 'Sur la Seine' (mambo) like a refreshing mountain stream," says *All About Jazz* critic Chris Slawicki in his review of the band's new CD, *Invisible*. \$15. **Jan. 8: The Understorey.** Country-tinged folk-rock band led by the husband-and-wife singer-songwriter duo of Jessica and Matt McCumons, whose influences range from Aretha Franklin and Janis Joplin to Alison Krauss and Brandi Carlile. \$15. **Jan. 9: Jill Jack.** Sultry-voiced Detroit folk-rock singer-songwriter whose intimate, emotionally charged songs also draw freely on jazz and country flavors. Her 2005 CD *Moon and the Morning After* won a Detroit Music Award for Outstanding Folk Recording. She appears tonight with her band for her annual birthday show. \$20. **Jan. 10: Catie Curtis and Mala Sharp.** Double bill. A highly regarded singer-songwriter from Maine who lived in Ann Arbor for a few years in the early 90s, Curtis writes engaging, down-to-earth songs about the pleasures and tragedies of ordinary life. She's also known for her expansive, soaring vocals, her percussive guitar style, and her musical blend of folk, blues, and pop. "Any fool can write a love-gone-wrong song; it takes a real genius to write a love-gone-right one. No urban songwriter does that better than Curtis," says *Boston Globe* critic Scott Alarik. "She sings grippingly about love's better moments: tracing the shadows on a lover's face, and the sweet delights of staying warm on a

## Chris Bathgate

*A bit of a surprise*

Singer-songwriter Chris Bathgate's recent records have deserved their widespread acclaim. But to fully understand him, you've got to see him live. Born in Illinois, Bathgate cut his teeth in the Ann Arbor music scene while attending the U-M in the mid-2000s. He has drawn national attention during the past five years for his albums *A Cork Tale Wake* and *Salt Year*. If you know Bathgate only through those records' pensive, bittersweet folk tunes, though, you might envision him as an intensely serious, beard-stroking brooder, holed up in his basement with an acoustic guitar. His live show reveals both the man and his music to be much richer and more well-rounded.

For one, it's impossible to imagine Bathgate as a brooding "singer-songwriter" after seeing him live. This is a man who knows how to put a band together. Kalamazoo rock band the Go Rounds, a terrific outfit in their own right, form the backbone of Bathgate's current eight-piece ensemble. Go Rounds front man Graham Parsons and guitarist Mike Savina are particularly indispensable, respectively lending a lovely lap steel wash and terrific reverb-drenched guitar leads. In addition to the Go Rounds members, violinist Michelle Brosius and cellist Micah Ling excel, whether executing tricky lead parts or assisting trumpeter Brad Fritcher and tenor saxophonist Pat Booth in adding musical texture. Bathgate has a great ear for arrangement, and it's a pleasure to watch him gently lead the musicians onstage, smiling and nodding from behind his guitar.

The resulting sound is lush and awe-inspiring. The way Bathgate structures the slow fade-ins and fade-outs to many of his songs really holds an audience's attention, with rapt listeners holding their applause until the final note fully dissipates. Even the band seems to operate in a state of quiet musical bliss, with many players closing their eyes and tilting their heads skywards as they sway to the music. There's sadness in lyrics like "I'm just choking down a salt year / When sugar's all I've longed for," but deep soulfulness in the way Bathgate and band render the songs onstage.

With his sleeves rolled up, Bathgate leans into the microphone, his eyes intent as he looks directly out over the audience. His voice is warm and a little husky—soothing and gentle on his many lower-key songs, throaty and rousing on a handful of more exuberant numbers. Playing a couple of solo songs before calling his band out during a November performance at the Ark, he certainly seemed to fit the mode of the cerebral and impenetrably serious modern folksinger—until he finished one of those fade-outs and revealed himself as a charming goofball. He cracked endearingly corny jokes, encouraged audience interaction, and told lovely stories about the inspirations behind his tunes. Who'd have guessed that his wist-



ful and gorgeous "Red Arrow Highway" was inspired by watching snow fall from trees while driving?

Bathgate comes off as a guy who is somewhat bemused, somewhat amused, but most importantly amazed by the world, and he genuinely loves presenting his musical observations on it to an audience. Although Bathgate's music often gets pigeonholed as melancholic, his stage show can only be described as joyful.

Chris Bathgate returns to the Ark Thursday, January 21, with the Kentucky psychedelic folk quartet Bear Medicine, and he headlines the final night of Mittenfest at Bona Sera on Saturday, January 2.

—Patrick Dunn

cold day." Sharp is a veteran country-rock singer-songwriter whose songs have been covered by everyone from Cher and Bonnie Raitt to the Dixie Chicks. **Jan. 12: San Fermin.** Brooklyn-based 8-piece baroque pop ensemble led by the classically trained composer and multi-instrumentalist Ellis Ludwig-Leone and featuring former Ann Arborite Charlene Kay as lead vocalist. The band's latest CD, *Jackrab-bit*, has been praised for its agile blend of compositional complexity, pop grandeur, and gritty rock energy. \$15. **Jan. 13: Open Stage.** See above. **Jan. 14: October Babies.** Local self-styled "upbeat global soul" pop-jazz jam quartet, led by the Ypsilanti husband-and-wife duo of Toko Shiki-Santos and Erik Santos, whose songs are sung mostly in Japanese. The band has won several major Japanese music competitions, and Toko was named Outstanding World/Reggae/Ska Vocalist at the 2011 Detroit Music Awards. Opening act is Third Coast Kings, a local horn-driven retro funk octet whose eponymous debut CD was released on the Italian funk label Record Kicks. \$15. **Jan. 15: Dragon Wagon.** Highly regarded local acoustic roots-music sextet that calls its music "bluegrass folk-rock with a touch of Irish whiskey." \$15. **Jan. 16: Rev. Robert Jones.** The longtime former host of WDET's *Blues from the Lowlands* and an ordained Baptist minister, Jones is an excellent singer and guitarist, with a huge repertoire that draws on Delta, Texas, Chicago, and other blues traditions, along with other genres of traditional African American music. \$20. **Jan. 17: John Primer.** See review, p. 63. Quartet led by this veteran Mississippi-bred Chicago blues singer-songwriter and slide guitarist who was a member of both Willie Dixon and Magic Slim's bands. \$15. **Jan. 18: Kaki King.** Atlanta-bred, New York-based composer-guitarist in the tradition of the late Michael Hedges, Adrian Legg, and Preston Reed. Her music features variously expansive, moody, airy, and abstract melodies that dart in and out of and around the complex, ripping percussive patterns she taps out with both hands. She has an acclaimed new CD, *The Neck Is the Bridge to the Body*. \$20. **Jan. 20: Dan Bern.** Highly regarded singer-songwriter from Iowa whose

music has been described as "topical-political-poetical-sarcastic-punk-folk." He's an intense, energetic performer with a distinctly Dylanesque vocal delivery, and his insightful, sharp-witted songs are notable for their emotional force and directness. "He's a folksy troubadour with a rock-and-roll heart and the all-too-rare skill of combining humor and intelligence," says the *Baltimore Sun*. \$15. **Jan. 21: Chris Bathgate.** See review, above. Talented veteran local singer-songwriter—recently returned from a 2-year hiatus—who writes heartfelt, poetic story songs exploring existential crises in a variety of moods and modes. "Dusky and deliberate, Chris Bathgate's music can be foreboding, even funereal. But the Michigan native invests his songs with warm, rustic beauty, which makes everything too pretty to function as a true downer," says NPR reviewer Stephen Thompson. Opening act is Bear Medicine, a Lexington (KY) quartet that plays an adventurous brand of avant-psychedelic chamber rock. \$15. **Jan. 22: Willy Porter.** Pop-folk singer-songwriter from Milwaukee whose music blends roots-pop with elements of funk and country, and whose songs span a wide range of moods, from the trucker-inspired "Jesus on the Grille" and the girl-in-the-diner ode "Glow" to the erotic mysticism of "Watercolor," all accompanied by his intricately virtuosic acoustic guitar playing. He's accompanied by vocalist Carmen Nickerson. Porter's new CD, *Human Kindness*, is a collection of songs exploring the themes of human connection and compassion. \$20. **Jan. 23: Mountain Heart.** Winner of the 1999 International Bluegrass Association Emerging Artist of the Year Award, this bluegrass ensemble blends traditional and progressive styles. Its 2005 CD *The Journey* is a collection of traditional southern gospel tunes, and its 2006 CD *Wide Open* blends originals with songs by well-known country and bluegrass songwriters. The band's 2010 CD *Road That Never Ends* was recorded live at the Ark. \$35. **Jan. 24: John Gorka.** See review, p. 71. Acclaimed by *Rolling Stone* as the "pre-eminent male singer-songwriter of the New Folk movement," Gorka pens intimate, conversational songs and ballads that overflow with vividly imag-

ined details and a sly, probing sense of humor. Gorka's 2007 CD *Writing in the Margins* includes a revelatory cover of Townes Van Zandt's "Snows Don't Fall," along with a number of his own contemplative elegies on personal and political themes, and he has a brand-new CD, *Bright Side of Down*, a collection of what the Associated Press calls "wry, slice-of-life observations reminiscent of Lyle Lovett and John Prine." \$20. **Jan. 26: Midwest Territory Band.** Self-styled "jug-band jazz" by this local ensemble led by blues-oriented vocalist and guitar virtuoso Rollie Tussing, whose repertoire include an array of old-time country, blues, and jazz tunes, along with originals in a similar vein. With bassist Serge Van der Voo and percussionist Jim Carey. FREE. All encouraged to bring nonperishable food or money to donate to Food Gatherers.

## The B-Side

310 E. Washington 214-9995

This all-ages venue in the Neutral Zone teen center (with a side alley entrance off Fifth Ave.) features a mix of touring, local, and teen bands, usually Sat., 7-11 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Jan. 30: R & B Showcase.** With Ypsilanti R&B singer Djuana Morton and other performers TBA.

## The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. 996-8555

This local club features live music most Wed.-Sat. and occasional other nights, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7-10 p.m. Cover, dancing. If advance tickets are sold, they are available at the 8 Ball Saloon (below the club) and at [etix.com](http://etix.com). **Jan. 1: TBA.** **Jan. 2: Black Note Graffiti.** Progressive blues-rock band from Blissfield formerly known as Krescent 4. Opening acts are the Ypsilanti metal-rock quartet *Resistance*, the local guitar-driven rock trio *Spiraling Suns*, and the Jackson metal-edged psychedelic-rock quartet *Big Bad Wolf*. **Jan. 6: TBA.** **Jan. 7: Capt. Wolf.** Detroit collective whose music blends hip-hop



and surf music. Opening acts are local hip-hop MC **Dapper Casper**, Detroit hip-hop MC **G. King**, and the Detroit hip-hop duo **Tres Guapo Universe**. **Jan. 8: Ann Arbor Soul Club**. Classic soul music by the local DJ duo of Brad Hales and Robert Wells. **Jan. 9: TBA**. **Jan. 13: TBA**. **Jan. 14: Bonzo**. Local pop-rock quartet. Opening acts are **Rella**, a local folk-rock singer-songwriter, and **Mocha**, a local hip-hop MC. **Jan. 15: Dirty Deville**. Local reggae-flavored blues-rock quartet. Opening acts are **Stormy Chromer** (see Club Above), and **Bronze Mambas**, a Detroit psych-rock trio. **Jan. 16: Chrome Sparks**. The stage name of Jeremy Malvin, a Brooklyn-based electronic musician whose music has been described as "form-shifting beats [that] seem to resonate with spaced-out chillers and hyperactive party kids alike." Opening acts **TBA**. Advance tickets: \$14. **Jan. 20: TBA**. **Jan. 21: Nadim Azzam**. Local pop-oriented hip-hop singer-songwriter. Opening acts are **The Euphorics**, a local teen quintet whose music blends pop, rock, funk, and hip-hop to create what it calls "feelgood sad songs that make you dance," and **Stankface**, a local soul-funk quartet. **Jan. 22: Broccoli and Denmark Vessey**. Double bill. Broccoli is a local electronic/hip-hop MC, and Denmark Vessey is a Chicago-based experimental hip-hop MC. Opening acts are 2 local electro-acoustic experimental rock singer-songwriters **10 Megaj** (the stage name of U-M music student Kat Steih) and **Bobbiejak** (the stage name of Tessa Patterson). **Jan. 23: Matthew Dear**. Punchy, upbeat techno-pop band fronted by Dear, an inventive Detroit musician, on vocals and computer. Advance tickets: \$15. **Jan. 27: TBA**. **Jan. 28: Amateur Eyes**. Local teen indie rock band. Opening acts are **Air Is the Arche**, a Detroit indie rock trio led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Kameryn Ogden, and **shAaKa**, a local experimental rock quartet. **Jan. 29: Protomartyr**. Detroit postpunk garage band. Opening acts are **Rebel Kind**, a local quartet led by singer-guitarist Autumn Wetli, whose music ranges from bubblegum pop to swagging rock 'n' roll, and **Deadbeat Beat**, a local big-beat rock trio. **Jan. 30: The Lowercase**. Local alternative hard-rock band. Opening acts are the local psychedelic-pop quartet **Januzzi Watchmen**, the local electronic funk quintet **Kid Grizzly**, and local blues-rock singer-guitarist **Jon Jackson**. **Jan. 31: "Folk the Pig"**. Local musicians perform acoustic covers of pop songs in various genres. Performers include **Black Jake's Revenge**, **Sweet Insurrection** (aka Chris Good & Samuel Seth Bernard), **Pato Motown**, **Ben Daniels Band**, **Music of Keri Lynn Roche**, **Anna Lee's Company**, **Bennett, Fangs and Twang**, **Nicole P'Simer**, **Dave Menzo**, **Olivia Millerschinn**, **Scissor Now**, **Willie Rae & The Minor Arcana**, **Thunderwude**, **The Landmarks**, **Meg Nye**, and **Shelly Josh Jordan**. Advance tickets: \$15 (\$20 at the door).

### The Blue Nile

221 E. Washington 998-4746  
This downtown restaurant features live music, Fri. & Sat. 6-10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Louis Johnson**. Jazz standards and New Ethiopian jazz by this local pianist and saxophonist. On Saturdays he is joined by bassist Will Austin and other friends TBA.

### Bona Sera

200 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 340-6335  
This Ypsilanti restaurant occasionally hosts live music. **Dec. 29-Jan. 2: "Mittenfest X."** Five-night showcase of local and Michigan bands in a wide spectrum of genres. 6 different bands each night. A benefit for the nonprofit youth tutoring and writing center 826michigan. \$10 per night. 8 p.m.-1:30 a.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.). **Dec. 29: Headliner is Frontier Ruckus**, a popular experimental bluegrass-based folk-rock ensemble from Lake Orion. "Frontman Matthew Milia's vocals convey a dreamy, twangy quality, like someone who's wandering aimlessly through the woods at night. He recalls Michael Stipe in his vivid wordplay and oblique imagery," says the *Cleveland Scene*. Opening acts are local local pop-folk singer-songwriter **Matt Jones**, the veteran local indie pop-rock singer-songwriter **Fred Thomas**, the country-inflected folk-rock band **Misty Lyn & the Big Beautiful**, the local indie rock quartet **Loose Teeth**, Ypsilanti pop-folk singer-songwriter **Emily Jane Powers**, and the Ypsilanti avant-punk singer-songwriter **Patrick Elkins**. **Dec. 30: Headliner is Bonny Doon**, a Detroit postpunk folk-rock band. Opening acts are Ypsilanti pop-folk singer-songwriter **Loretta Lucas**, the local rock band **Minihorse**, Detroit soul singer-songwriter **Britney Stoner**, the Detroit pop-rock duo **Best Exes**, the Detroit blues-tinged Americana singer-songwriter **Ian Link**, and the Detroit acoustic blues-inflected country-soul sextet **Willie Rae & the Minor Arcana**. **Dec. 31: Headliner is Dead Kind**, an ad hoc rock 'n' roll jam band made up of the Detroit bands

Rebel Kind and Deadbeat Beat. Opening acts are the Detroit pop-punk trio **Growing Pains**, the Detroit rock 'n' roll trio **The Kickstand Band**, Ypsilanti rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter **Stef Chura**, the Ypsilanti indie pop-rock trio **Tanager**, Ypsilanti pop-folk singer-songwriter **Annie Palmer**, and the local acoustic folk-rock duo **Spelling**. **Jan. 1: Headliner is Congress**, an Ypsilanti postpunk rock 'n' roll quartet. Opening acts are the local punk-rock trio **Human Skull**, the Detroit postpunk rock quartet **Bobbi Palace**, the Detroit doom pop band **Blood Stone**, the Detroit psychedelic garage-rock trio **Real Ghosts**, the Grand Rapids country-rock quartet **The Bootstrap Boys**, and the Hamtramck folk-rock duo **Drinkard Sisters**. **Jan. 2: Headliner is Chris Bathgate** (see The Ark and see review, p. 46.). Opening acts are the Detroit rock band **INK**, the Detroit rock trio **Riverspirit**, the Detroit self-styled "dark bedroom pop" duo **Dear Darkness**, the Grand Rapids garage-rock trio **Bermudas**, the Grand Rapids indie singer-songwriter and keyboardist **Jes Kramer**, and the Detroit postpunk duo **Catty Club**.

### Café Verde

214 N. Fourth Ave. 994-9174  
This café in the People's Food Co-op features acoustic musicians and duos, Thurs. 6-8 p.m. No cover, no dancing. January schedule TBA.

### The Cavern Club

210 S. First St. 913-8890  
This downtown basement club in the Celebration Cellars banquet space features occasional live music, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. There is also sometimes music in the street-level Millennium Club and Gotham City and the 2nd-floor Circus Bar & Billiards. Also, karaoke in the Circus, Wed.-Sat. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Occasional cover, dancing. **Jan. 9 & 23: Killer Flamigos**. Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular veteran band from Dearborn. In the Millennium Club.

### The Club Above

215 N. Main 686-4012  
This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features live music Fri. & Sat. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. (doors at 9 p.m.). Also, DJs occasional Wed. & Thurs. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Dancing, cover. Age 21 & older admitted (except as noted). **Jan. 1: TBA**. **Jan. 2: "Dancehall & Reggae Night."** With a DJ. **Jan. 8: "8-Bit Above."** Electronic musicians TBA. **Jan. 9: Pocket Candies**. Local indie rock band whose music draws on electronic, industrial, and jazz influences. Opening acts are **Bearfoot**, an Ypsilanti funk-rock band, and another band TBA. **Jan. 13: "Wild Out Wednesdays."** DJs with futurism, beats, and bass music. **Jan. 14: "Copacetic."** The popular soul-inflected hip-hop singer and rapper **Nickie P** host an evening of underground hip-hop, soul, and dreamwave. With resident DJ Cataclysmic and guest DJs TBA. **Jan. 15: Earphorik**. Northeastern Indiana progressive rock jam band. Opening act is **Desmond Jones**, an East Lansing funk-rock fusion quintet. **Jan. 16: The Switchbacks**. Local hard-rocking country and blues quintet fronted by vocalist Janet Benson. 6-9 p.m. **Jan. 16: Midnite Jackers**. House music DJ duo. With DJs **Pat in the Hat** and **DJ 45**. **Jan. 22: B Pat**. Romulus hip-hop MC who tonight celebrates the release of his new mixtape. **Jan. 23: TBA**. **Jan. 29: Stormy Chromer**. Local progressive jam-rock quintet. Opening acts are **That Freak Quincy**, a Kalamazoo funk-rock jam band, and **Nadim Azzam**, a local pop-rock singer-songwriter. **Jan. 30: TBA**.

### Common Cup

1511 Washtenaw 327-6914  
This coffeehouse run by the University Lutheran Chapel features live music and other entertainment on occasional Fri. No cover (except as noted), no dancing. **Jan. 15: Kristina Johnson**. Introspective alt-pop with a whimsical edge by this local singer-songwriter. **Jan. 22: Joy Rode**. Memphis-bred pop-blues Christian singer-songwriter.

### Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main 665-2968  
Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. 7:30-10 p.m. and Tues., Thurs., & Sat. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., and a DJ on Fri. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session**. All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. **Every Tues.: Shaun Garth Walker**. Local singer-guitarist with an eclectic, wide-ranging repertoire. **Jan. 2: Michael May & the Messarounds**. See Mash. **Jan. 7: Randy Brock Duo**. Blues duo led by singer-guitarist Brock. **Jan. 9: Rootstand**. Local band whose music blends bluegrass, blues, reggae, and Celtic folk idioms and instrumentation. **Jan. 14: B-rant**. The solo persona of Rootstand frontman Brant Losinski. **Jan. 16: Joshua & Jeremy Sprague**. An eclectic mix of rock covers by these

local brothers. **Jan. 21: Mossy Moran**. Traditional singer from Ireland. **Jan. 23: Randy Brock Group**. Detroit blues trio. **Jan. 28: Bob Skon**. Folk-rock covers and originals by this local singer-songwriter known for his wry songs about love and loss. **Jan. 30: Social Bones**. Detroit country-rock jam band.

### Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

114 S. Main 665-9468  
Tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music, Fri. & Sat. 8:30-10:30 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Jan. 1: No music**. **Jan. 2: San & Emily & Jacob**. Multi-instrumentalist San Slomovits (best known as half of the popular family-friendly duo Gemini) and his violinist daughter, Emily Slomovits, are joined by bassist Jacob Warren to perform a wide range of traditional and contemporary acoustic folk, jazz, and classical music, including material from their CD, *Innocent When You Dream*. **Jan. 8: J. Washburn Gardner**. Ypsilanti pop-folk singer-songwriter. **Jan. 9: Chris Degnore**. Blues-flavored pop-rock singer-songwriter from Detroit. **Jan. 15: Steve Kovich**. Detroit singer-songwriter whose influences include James Taylor and Paul Simon. **Jan. 16: John Churchville**. Local tabla player, accompanied by several musician friends, who plays Indian classical, light classical, fusion, and folk music. **Jan. 22: Matt Cifaldi**. Veteran local folk-rock singer-songwriter. **Jan. 23: Joe Summers Group**. This local ensemble led by guitar virtuoso Summers plays an eclectic mix of honky-tonk, urban jazz, and Gypsy swing. With rhythm guitarist Mickey Richard and other musicians TBA. **Jan. 29: J. Magee & Crossed Lines**. New local bluegrass-oriented folk-rock ensemble led by 16 More Miles singer-guitarist Jason Magee that recently released its debut album, *Blood in the Water*. **Jan. 30: Taller Than They Appear**. Quartet of veteran area singer-songwriters who accompany each other with soulful vocal harmonies and on an eclectic array of instruments, from bells, bongos, woodblocks, washboards and whistles to guitars, violins, and ukuleles. Members are Jere Stormer, Bobby Pennock, Sigrid Christiansen and Lauren Crane.

### Crossroads

517 W. Cross, Ypsilanti 340-5597  
This bar & grill near EMU features live music Tues., Wed., Fri., & Sat. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. DJ with Motown records Mon. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. and "Hari Karaoke" Thurs. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (Thurs.-Sat. only), dancing. **Every Tues.: "Showcase Tuesday."** With up-and-coming local bands TBA.

### Dreamland Theater

26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti 657-2337  
This downtown Ypsilanti theater features occasional live music. Cover (usually a donation), dancing.

### The Earle

121 W. Washington 994-0211  
Restaurant with live jazz Tues.-Thurs. 7-9 p.m. and Fri. & Sat. 8-11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Tues.: Keaton Royer**. Solo jazz pianist. **Every Wed. & Thurs.: Jake Reichbart**. Solo guitarist. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio**. Jazz ensemble, named after the late jazz pianist and Earle cofounder Burgess, featuring pianist Gil Scott Chapman, bassist Russell Tessier, and drummer Robert Warren.

### The Elks Lodge

220 Sunset 761-7172  
This basement venue in the James L. Crawford Elks Lodge rec room features soul food and live jazz, blues, & rock Fri. & Sat. 6-10 p.m. Also, DJs, Fri. & Sat. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Dancing, usually no cover except for DJ shows. Members and guests welcome. **Every Thurs.: "Hip-Hop Open Mike."** All hip-hop artists invited.

### Guy Hollerin's

3600 Plymouth Rd. 769-9800  
The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features music on Sat. (except holiday weekends), 8 p.m.-midnight. Cover, dancing. **Jan. 2: No music**. **Jan. 9: Bobby Murray Band**. R&B band led by singer-guitarist Murray, who was the regular guitarist in Etta James' band. **Jan. 16: The Alligators**. Detroit R&B and blues band. **Jan. 23: Saints of Soul**. Detroit R&B, soul, and funk septet fronted by vocalist Sorilbran Stone. **Jan. 30: Lady Sunshine & the X Band**. Popular local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style blends elements of Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. The band's latest CD is *Big Sexie*.

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### Matt Braunger January 21 22 23

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NBC's "Up All Night"  
"Blue Mountain State"  
"Garfunkle & Oates"  
"Chelsea Lately"  
"The Late, Late Show w/Ferguson"  
"Conan" - ABC's "The Middle" - "Happy Endings"  
HBO's "Family Tree" - TBS's "The Michael J. Fox Show"  
IFC's "Maroon" and the movie "Big Dumb Animal."

For the rest of this month's comics check the listings in this magazine

## SHOWTIMES

Wed. & Thurs. - 8pm  
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## Music at Nightspots

### The Habitat Lounge

**3050 Jackson Rd. 665-3636**  
The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.-Thurs. 8:45 p.m.-12:30 a.m. and Fri. & Sat. 8:45 p.m.-1:30 a.m., along with jazz Sun. 7-11 p.m. Also, a DJ Mon., 7 p.m.-midnight, and solo pianists Tues.-Sun., 6-8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Sun.: The Weber's Jazz Collective.** Jazz originals and standards by different piano-based trios and quartets each week. **Jan. 1:** No music. **Jan. 2:** **Big Ray & Motor City Kings.** An eclectic mix of rock, soul, blues, and Motown by this Downriver quintet fronted by singer-saxophonist Big Ray Haywood. **Jan. 5-7:** **Mark Chichkan Duo.** Rock duo led by veteran Windsor singer-guitarist Chichkan. **Jan. 8 & 9:** **Chateau.** Veteran pop dance band. **Jan. 12 & 13:** **The Weber's Jazz Collective.** See above. On Jan. 13, pianist Tim Knapp joins the group to perform Pink Floyd's classic 1979 progressive rock album *The Wall* in its entirety. **Jan. 15:** **Phoenix Theory.** Detroit Top 40 dance band featuring members of Scoot Magoo and 50 Amp Fuse. **Jan. 16:** **Dan Rafferty Band.** Popular 8-piece Detroit pop dance band. **Jan. 19-21:** **Slice.** Veteran East Lansing pop dance quartet. **Jan. 22 & 23:** **The Front Men.** Detroit vintage-rock band. **Jan. 26-28:** **Scottie Alexander Duo.** Pop-rock covers by everyone from Elton John and Lionel Richie to Matchbox Twenty and Kings of Leon by this duo led by Brighton singer-pianist Alexander. **Jan. 29 & 30:** **Rhythm Kings.** Horn-fired jazz-rock dance band.

### LIVE

**102 S. First St. 623-1443**  
This lounge features live music Fri. happy hour (late Aug.-May), 6:30-9 p.m., and occasional evenings. Also, DJs, Mon. & Thurs.-Sat. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover (except Fri. & Sat. after 11 p.m.), dancing. **Jan. 1:** Closed. **Jan. 8:** **The Vibratrons.** All-star band led by veteran local rocker Dan Mulholland, the charismatic former leader of the Watusis and several other great local rock 'n' roll bands. Its repertoire includes everything from garage rock and blues to country and folk, along with more ballads than Mulholland usually essays. With guitarist Brian Delaney, keyboardist Fred Klein, bassist Dave Roof, and drummer Rich Dishman. 6:30-9 p.m. **Jan. 15:** **Comdaddy.** Local alt-country band led by singer-songwriters Kevin Brown and Jud Branam whose music filters early 70s country-rock through the influences of bluegrass, power pop, and British Invasion bombast. 6:30-9 p.m. **Jan. 22:** **"Velvet Underground Tribute."** With an ad hoc ensemble led by local jazz bassist Dave Sharp. 6:30-9 p.m. **Jan. 29:** **Drivin' Sideways.** Veteran local band fueled by Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everyone from Chuck Berry and Johnny Burnette to the Beatles and James Brown. With guitarist George Bedard, bassist Pat Prouty, drummer Mark Newbound, and keyboardist Jim King. 6:30-9 p.m.

### Mash

**211 E. Washington 222-4095**  
This lounge in the basement of the Blue Tractor tavern features live music Wed. 9 p.m.-midnight and Thurs.-Sat. & occasional other nights, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Weekend happy hour music, 6-9 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Jan. 1:** No music. **Jan. 2:** **The Alligators.** See Guy Hollerin's. **Jan. 6:** **Reeds & Steel.** Acoustic jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by the duo of singer and harmonica player Michael May and guitarist Jimmy Alter. **Jan. 7:** **Laura Rain & the Caesars.** An intense fusion of funk, soul, and blues by this Detroit quintet fronted by vocalist Rain. **Jan. 8:** **Jibs Brown.** Ypsilanti singer-guitarist who performs acoustic blues covers and originals. 6-9 p.m. **Jan. 8:** **Brett Mitchell & the Giant Ghost.** Midland pop-rock band led by Mitchell, a singer-songwriter and drummer whom *Grand Rapids Press* music critic John Sinkevics calls "the new millennium's version of Marshall Crenshaw." **Jan. 9:** **Matt Boylan.** Covers and originals by this local pop-folk singer-guitarist. 6-9 p.m. **Jan. 9:** **Nobody's Business.** Redford blues and blues-rock band. **Jan. 13:** **Dan Orcutt.** Veteran local folk-rock singer-songwriter. **Jan. 14:** **Michael May & the Messarounds.** Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist May. **Jan. 15:** **Robert Johnson.** Solo acoustic folk and blues by this Northville singer-guitarist. 6-9 p.m. **Jan. 15:** **The Canastas.** Canton quintet that plays vintage jump blues, rockabilly, rock 'n' roll, and ska. **Jan. 16:** **Zander Michigan.** The stage name of Detroit pop-folk singer-songwriter Zander Melidis. 6-9 p.m. **Jan. 16:** **The Bluescasters.** Veteran local quartet that plays intense, low-down blues and blues-rock. **Jan. 20:** **Barelyon.** Soulful pop-rock by this Detroit

duo. **Jan. 21:** **The Invasion.** British Invasion cover quartet from Redford led by singer-guitarist David Roof. **Jan. 22:** **Jay Fry.** Local singer-guitarist who plays rock 'n' roll, blues, and folk covers and originals. 6-9 p.m. **Jan. 22:** **The Shelter Dogs.** Local self-styled "lounge-a-billy" trio that plays vintage swing, rockabilly, and blues. With upright bassist Todd Perkins, guitarist Pete Bullard, and drummer Tom Twiss. **Jan. 23:** **Reeds & Steel.** See above. 6-9 p.m. **Jan. 23:** **Chris Canas Band.** Detroit blues band fronted by young blues vocalist and virtuoso guitarist Canas. **Jan. 27:** **Mike Vial.** See Old Town. **Jan. 28:** **Ari Teitel Band.** Detroit Americana rock ensemble led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Teitel, whose music draws on soul, funk, blues, and gospel influences. **Jan. 29:** **Adam Labeaux.** An eclectic mix of jazz, folk, soul, funk, and rock originals by this local singer-songwriter, a former Ragbirds guitarist. 6-9 p.m. **Jan. 29:** **Harper & the Midwest Kind.** Blues-rock band led by Peter Harper, a blues singer-songwriter from Australia, now transplanted to Grass Lake, who plays blues harp and didgeridoo. The band has an acclaimed CD on the Blind Pig label, *Down to the Rhythm*. **Jan. 30:** **Logan White.** Local pop-folk singer-guitarist. 6-9 p.m. **Jan. 30:** **Sonic Freeway.** Versatile Detroit-area 6-piece dance band whose repertoire includes Motown and classic and country-rock.

### The Necto

**516 E. Liberty 994-5436**  
This popular dance club features local and national DJs 4 nights a week, Mon. & Thurs.-Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Also, Friday happy hour bands (no cover) in the Red Room, 5:30-8:30 p.m., and occasional other live shows. Cover, dancing. **Jan. 1:** No music. **Jan. 8:** **Shoot the Messenger.** Versatile honky-tonk band led by singer-bassist Chris Goerke. The band's huge repertoire includes blues, country, rockabilly, rock 'n' roll, and R&B. With singer-guitarist Steve Newhouse and drummer Tom Twiss. **Jan. 15:** **The Medicine Men.** This local quartet plays danceable 60s-80s rock covers from the Doors to the Allman Brothers to Lynyrd Skynyrd. **Jan. 22:** **She-Bop & the Riff Raff.** Local septet with a repertoire of vintage and contemporary pop, rock, and blues covers that's fronted by the girl-group-style vocals of Robin Peterson, Laurie Lounsbury, and Jennifer Carr Rumberger. **Jan. 29:** **Hullabaloo.** Veteran local ska and 80s-style pop dance band.

### Old Town

**122 W. Liberty 662-9291**  
This downtown corner bar features live music Sun., Tues., & occasional other nights, 8-10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Jan. 1:** **Chris Buhalis.** This local singer-songwriter performs his annual tribute to Hank Williams and Townes Van Zandt to mark the anniversary of their deaths. He's accompanied by dobro player Dave Keeney and mandolinist Jason Dennie. 5 p.m. until he's done. **Jan. 3:** **Jo Serapere.** Serapere is a highly regarded veteran local singer-songwriter known for her spare, haunting ballads and blues and her sinewy, commanding vocals. **Jan. 5:** **Carl Michel Trio.** Jazz ensemble led by this local guitarist. **Jan. 10:** **Spencer Michaud.** Local pop-folk singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist. **Jan. 12:** **Rob Crozier Trio.** Local jazz ensemble led by keyboardist Crozier. **Jan. 17:** **Mike Vial.** Local folk-rock singer-songwriter. **Jan. 19:** **Malena Quartet.** Modern and Latin jazz originals by this local ensemble led by saxophonist Maria Navedo, a recent MSU grad. **Jan. 24:** **Jud Branam & Kevin Brown.** Local alt-country duo, both Comdaddy singer-songwriters whose music mixes equal parts of Gram Parsons and Uncle Tupelo. **Jan. 26:** **GFK Trio.** Funky, soulful organ-based jazz by this Detroit ensemble. With organist Scott Kulik, drummer Eric Phillip, and guitarist Dan Gruszka. **Jan. 31:** **Bill Edwards Trio.** Ensemble led by local country singer-songwriter Edwards, whose songs have been covered by the likes of Lee Roy Parnell and T. Graham Brown.

### Oz's Music Environment

**1920 Packard 662-8283**  
This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music most Tues. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Cover by donation, no dancing. **Every Thurs.:** **"Guitarist Network."** All guitarists invited for a weekly jam session and group lesson that concludes with a group performance. 7:30-9 p.m. **Jan. 5:** **"Songwriters Open Mike."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak.

### The Ravens Club

**207 S. Main 214-0400**  
This downtown bar & grill features live music, Sun. 8-11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.:** **Heather Black Project.** Vintage jazz and blues by an ensemble led by Heather Schwartz, a talented local singer whose vocal style also reflects gospel, R&B, soul, and hip-hop influences.

### Rush Street

**314 S. Main 913-0330**  
This martini lounge features nightly DJs, along with live music, first Fri. of the month 5-8 p.m., Fri. 8-10 p.m., and occasional other nights. Dancing, no cover. **Every Fri. (except Jan. 22):** **Legendary Wings.** Local jazz quintet that focuses on dynamic, challenging, and less commonly heard music from the modern jazz repertoire interspersed with free improvisation. The usual lineup features saxophonists Dan Bennett and Tim Hal-deman, Fender Rhodes electric pianist Matt Endahl, bassist Jordan Schug, and drummer Nick Collins. **Jan. 8:** **WEMU 5:01 Jazz Series.** With the **Glenn Tucker Trio + 1**, a local ensemble led by pianist Tucker, who recently released the CD *Determination*. With saxophonist George Benson, bassist Robert Hurst, and drummer Kayvon Gordon. 5-8 p.m. **Jan. 22:** **Andy Adamson Quartet.** Jazz originals by keyboardist Adamson in styles ranging from traditional to modern electric jazz, along with some free improvisation. With saxophonist Dan Bennett, acoustic and electric bassist Brennan Andes, and drummer John Taylor.

### Silvio's Organic Pizza

**715 North University 214-6666**  
This campus-area restaurant features live music Sun. 6-8 p.m., Fri. 7-9 p.m., and occasional other nights. Also, dancing to DJs with swing music (Wed. 10 p.m.-midnight) and tango music (Fri. 10 p.m.-midnight). No cover, dancing. **Every Sun.:** **Will Mefford.** Improvisations on jazz standards by this local pianist. **Jan. 8:** **Mixed Nuts.** Acoustic covers and originals by this Chelsea trio. **Jan. 15:** **Matt Shevlin Trio.** Jazz standards by a trio led by this local French horn player and pianist. With guitarist Dave Smilington and bassist Tim Berla. **Jan. 22:** **Eyes Unclouded.** Celtic, folk, and rock tunes by this local family band. **Jan. 29:** **Michael Joseph.** This local singer-guitarist performs an eclectic array of covers from Badfinger to Cowboy Junkies and Smashing Pumpkins, along with a few originals.

### Tap Room

**201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 482-5320**  
This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music Thurs. 8 p.m.-midnight, and occasional Fri. & Sat. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Every Thurs.:** **Electric Open Mike.** Hosted by **The Martindales**, a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All electric musicians invited.

### Wolverine State Brewing Co.

**2019 W. Stadium 369-2990**  
This west-side brewpub features occasional live music, 8:30-11:30 p.m. No cover, dancing. **Jan. 9:** **The Moxie Strings.** Local duo of former Dragon Wagon fiddler Diana Ladio and electric cellist Alison Lynn, who play a foot-stomping, rock-influenced fusion of traditional Celtic and Americana music.

### The Yellow Barn

**416 W. Huron Ouryellowbarn.com**  
This performance venue just west of downtown features live music Wed. (beginning Jan. 20), most Fri. & Sat. & occasional other nights, 7:30-11 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Jan. 20:** **Carmel Liburdi.** Local singer-songwriter whose quirky pop-folk songs have provoked comparisons to Regina Spektor and Sara Bareilles. Opening act is **Tim Johnson**, a local singer who accompanies himself on guitar and keyboards. **Jan. 22, 23, 29, & 30:** TBA.

### Zal Gaz Grotto

**2070 W. Stadium 663-1202**  
This Masonic social and service club hosts live music Sat. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., Sun. 5-8 p.m., Mon. 7-10 p.m., Tues. 5:30-8:30 p.m., & occasional other nights. Cover, dancing. **Every Sun.:** **Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. **Every Mon.:** **Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist Sarah D'Angelo and occasional guest vocalists. Also, each week features a middle set by a guest student ensemble. **Every Tues.:** **Paul Klinger's Easy Street Jazz Band.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Klinger. **Jan. 9:** **RJ Spangler's NOLA Band.** A wide range of New Orleans R&B from Huey "Piano" Smith and Dr. John to Allen Toussaint and the Neville brothers by this ensemble led by veteran Detroit drummer Spangler and featuring trombonist-vocalist Thone Paxton. With the young guitar prodigy Alicia Marie, standup bassist Gwen MacPhee, and tenor saxophonist Goode Wyche III.



# January Events

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*John Hinchey & Katie Whitney*

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- 61 Exhibit Openings**  
*Katie Whitney*

## MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

- 46 Nightspots**  
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*Patrick Dunn*



The Burns Park Players present *My Fair Lady*  
Jan. 29 & 30 and Feb 5 & 6.

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### We want to know about your event!

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- **By mail:** Katie Whitney, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103
- **By fax:** 769-3375
- **After-hours drop box:** left side of the Observer's front door facing Winewood

### What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

### Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to AnnArborObserver.com).

★ Denotes a free event.

### annarborobserver.com:

An expanded, continually updated version of this calendar is available at [AnnArborObserver.com](http://AnnArborObserver.com). This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on [annarborobserver.com](http://annarborobserver.com).

### arbormail:

Get your alerts by email—send a reminder when your favorite performer, group, or special event shows up in town. Sign up at [AnnArborObserver.com/arbormail\\_help.html](http://AnnArborObserver.com/arbormail_help.html).

## WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

[www.AnnArborObserver.com](http://www.AnnArborObserver.com)

## 1 FRIDAY (NEW YEAR'S DAY)

★**"First Miles of 2016": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Short ride to a brunch spot for eating and socializing. Distance may be reduced or ride cancelled in bad weather; call ahead if uncertain. 10 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 662-0205.

**"Hands-On Holidays": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.** Dec. 26–Jan. 3. Family-friendly hands-on activities, performances, and demonstrations. Noon–4 p.m. (Sun. & Jan. 1) & 10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Mon.–Fri., except Jan. 1), AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. \$12 (members & infants, free) regular museum admission. 995-5439.

**The Music Lady: Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.** All ages program of music and movement led by Beverly Meyer. Noon–3 p.m., AAHOM Legacy Gallery, 220 E. Ann. \$12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995-5439.

**"A Christmas Carol": National Theatre of Scotland (University Musical Society).** Dec. 17–20, 22–24, 26, 27, & 29–31 and Jan. 1–3. Graham McLaren directs this Scottish company—known for its nontra-

ditional productions—in his theatrical adaptation of Dickens's beloved tale of Ebenezer Scrooge's tortuous journey from bilious tightwad to gracious benefactor. This haunting, intimate version (with only 125 audience members per show) includes puppets, live music, and an ingenious set. For age 8 and up. The Dec. 29 2 p.m. performance is sensory-friendly, with some changes made to light and sound effects and a relaxed attitude toward noise and movement by audience members (also, audience members can arrive at 1 p.m. to explore the set, meet the director, and ask questions). 4 p.m. (Jan. 1), 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 17, 22, 23, 29, & 30), 8 p.m. (Dec. 18, 19, & 26 and Jan. 2), 2 p.m. (Dec. 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, & 29–31 and Jan. 2 & 3), 6 p.m. (Dec. 20 & 27 and Jan. 3), & 9 p.m. (Dec. 24 & 31), Power Center. Tickets \$55 in advance at [ums.org](http://ums.org) & by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538.

**Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing).** All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. 7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. \$5 requested donation. 663-2037.

**"Hoedown Skate": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation Funky Frosty Friday.** All invited to wear cowboy or cowgirl hats and skate to country & west-

# LATINO AMERICANS

500 YEARS OF HISTORY



[aadl.org](http://aadl.org)



ANN ARBOR DISTRICT LIBRARY | 343 S. FIFTH AVENUE

OPENING CONCERT | MUSIC BY TUMBAO BRAVO  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2016 | 7-8:00 PM  
DOWNTOWN LIBRARY MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

## FILM & DISCUSSION SERIES

**Foreigners in Their Own Land**  
January 18 English / January 20 Spanish

**Empire of Dreams**  
January 25 English / January 27 Spanish

**War and Peace**  
February 1 English / February 8 Spanish

**The New Latinos**  
February 22 English / February 24 Spanish

**Prejudice and Pride**  
March 14 English / March 16 Spanish

**Peril and Promise**  
March 21 English / March 23 Spanish

For full descriptions of these films and other related events and information, please visit [aadl.org/latinoamericans](http://aadl.org/latinoamericans)



EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN THE DOWNTOWN LIBRARY MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

SUSTAINABILITY • 1/7



**Thurs. Jan 7**  
7-8:30pm

**PANEL DISCUSSION CITY OF ANN ARBOR 2016 SUSTAINABLE ANN ARBOR FORUM: CLIMATE AND ENERGY** • The City and AADL host their Sustainable Ann Arbor series again this year. The first event focuses on updates on Ann Arbor's Climate Action Plan, an overview of local climate impacts, and sustainable programs underway at U-M. See [www.a2gov.org/sustainability](http://www.a2gov.org/sustainability) for more information.

**Sun. Jan 10**  
2-3:30pm

**A.C.E. ANIMAL CARE EDUCATION WITH THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF HURON VALLEY** • Learn about various wildlife that live in your community and gain insight about how to respect their natural habitat. • TRAVERWOOD

**Mon. Jan 11**  
6:30-8:30pm

**MEMOIR WRITING: TURNING YOUR LIFE INTO ART (Or is it the other way around?)** • Huron High School English teacher and author R.J. Fox will lead participants through the process of turning real life experiences—both profound & ordinary—into the art of creative non-fiction.

**Mon. Jan 11**  
7-8:30pm

**ANN ARBOR/YPSILANTI READS 2016 THE BOOK OF UNKNOWN AMERICANS: A NOVEL** • AADL staff will lead a discussion of *The Book of Unknown Americans: A Novel* by Cristina Henríquez. • PITTSFIELD

**Tues. Jan 12**  
7-8:30pm

**THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR SWEET TOOTH** • Discover the really good news about fruit, and why it is our real superfood. • PITTSFIELD

**Wed. Jan 13**  
7-8:00pm

**CONCERT: TUMBAO BRAVO** • Join us for this opening concert for the AADL's film & discussion series *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History*, featuring the music of the exciting Cuban jazz combo Tumbao Bravo.

**Thurs. Jan 14**  
7-8:30pm

**ANN ARBOR FILM FESTIVAL OUTSTANDING FILMS FROM THE 2015 FESTIVAL** • The Ann Arbor Film Festival, the longest-running independent and experimental film festival in North America, hosts this evening of outstanding films from last year's festival.

**Mon. Jan 18**  
2-3:00pm

**MLK DAY CONCERT BIAKUYE PERCUSSION GROUP** • In Akan languages of West Africa, biakuye means unity. Biakuye's energetic performances bring together a wide range of African and Caribbean music and dance.

**Mon. Jan 18**  
6:30-8:30pm

**FILM & DISCUSSION LATINO AMERICANS: 500 YEARS OF HISTORY SERIES PART 1: FOREIGNERS IN THEIR OWN LAND (1565-1880)** • Tonight's film begins one hundred years after Columbus' arrival in the Caribbean, as Spanish Conquistadors and Priests push into North America in search of gold and to spread Catholicism. (This session is in English and will be repeated in Spanish on Wednesday, January 20 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm.) GRADE 9-ADULT

**Tues. Jan 19**  
7-8:00pm

**CONCERT PETER MADCAT RUTH** • Grammy Award-Winning Musician Peter Madcat Ruth is a champion of the long-standing tradition of the one man band.

**Mon. Jan 25**  
6:30-8:30pm

**FILM & DISCUSSION LATINO AMERICANS: 500 YEARS OF HISTORY SERIES PART 2: EMPIRE OF DREAMS (1880-1942)** • Widespread immigration to the U.S. from Latin countries begins—first with a small group from Cuba, then a larger one from Mexico. Both flee chaos and violence in their home country and are attracted by opportunities in the United States. (This session is in English and will be repeated in Spanish on Wednesday, January 27 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm.) • GRADE 9-ADULT

**Tues. Jan 26**  
7-8:30pm

**LECTURE SEX ON TV: WHAT ARE WE LEARNING? WHY DOES IT MATTER?** • This lecture will discuss several studies that investigate how regular exposure to mainstream media affects young peoples' sexual attitudes, expectations, and experiences. This program is co-sponsored by the University of Michigan Department of Psychology.

**Thurs. Jan 28**  
7-8:30pm

**ESTABLISHING A RAIN GARDEN: Clean up the Huron River, One Garden at a Time** • Learn about the benefits of rain gardens and how to build and plant one. • TRAVERWOOD

**Fri. Jan 29**  
7-8:30pm

**MICHIGAN LITERARY LUMINARIES** • Join Michigan Notable Author Anna Clark to unveil Michigan's extraordinary written culture as she discusses her new book, *Michigan Literary Luminaries: From Elmore Leonard to Robert Hayden*. (The event includes a book signing and books will be for sale.)

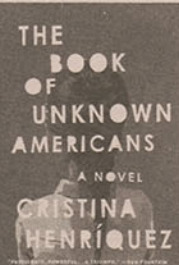
**Sat. Jan 30**  
2-3:30pm

**MUSIC, DANCE & CRAFTS CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION** • Celebrate Chinese New Year at AADL! • ALL AGES

**Sun. Jan 31**  
1-4:00pm

**PRESCHOOL INFORMATION FAIR** • Explore your options and find the best preschool for your child! This event is sponsored by AADL, Washtenaw Success By 6 Great Start Collaborative, Child Care Network, and the U-M Work/Life Resource Center. • PALMER COMMONS, 100 WASHTENAW AVE.

BOOK DISCUSSION • 1/11



TUMBAO BRAVO • 1/13



FILM & DISCUSSION • 1/18



CONCERT • 1/19



RAIN GARDENS • 1/28



PRESCHOOL EXPO • 1/31



ern music. Prizes for best costume. 7:15-8:45 p.m., Buhr Park Ice Rink, 2751 Packard. \$6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$5). \$1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available (\$3). 794-6234.

**"Pointless Improv": Pointless Brewery & Theatre.** Every Fri. & Sat. This new local theater's improv company, The League of Pointless Improvisers, leads an array of experienced local improvisers in sketch comedy shows. 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Sat.), Pointless Brewery & Theatre, 3014 Packard. Tickets \$10. Reservations available at [goo.gl/forms/7XwKpfjXt](http://goo.gl/forms/7XwKpfjXt). info@pointlessbrew.com

## 2 SATURDAY

**★Saturday Morning Border to Border Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Every Sat. 22-mile ride, at various paces along the Border-to-Border Trail, from Ann Arbor to Ypsilanti, to decide where to eat lunch. 10 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 662-0205.

**★Chime Concert: Kerrytown Shops.** Every Wed., Fri., & Sat., except Jan. 1. All invited to play one of 100 songs, with melodies transcribed in numbers, on the 17-bell chime's numbered keys. Ambitious players can add chords. Local chime master Heather O'Neal demonstrates. 10:30-11 a.m. (Sat.) & noon-12:30 p.m. (Wed. & Fri.), Kerrytown Market & Shops. Free. 369-3107.

**"Little Peeps PlayGround": Pointless Brewery & Theatre.** Every Sat. Performances, drama activities, and crafts geared toward kids in grades pre-K to 5. Themes include "Help Your Neighbor" (Jan. 2), "Nature" (Jan. 9), and "Role Reversal" (Jan. 23). On Jan. 16, Spinning Dot Theater performs *Sedna*, Kelly Joyce Fielder's 20-minute family-friendly theatrical adaptation of Joel Rudinger's tale of an Inuit sea goddess. The set is a pillow fort, and the production incorporates puppetry. On Jan. 30, Ypsilanti-based Shaffer Handful Puppets performs *A Cranky Puppet Show*. 10:30 a.m., Pointless Brewery & Theatre, 3014 Packard. Tickets \$7. Reservations available at [goo.gl/forms/pGUaLv0rD5](http://goo.gl/forms/pGUaLv0rD5). info@pointlessbrew.com

**"The Little Scientist Club": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.** Every Tues. & Sat. Crafts, science-themed stories, and hands-on activities for young kids, accompanied by a parent. Geared toward kids ages 3-6; older siblings welcome. 10:30-11:30 a.m. (Sat.) & 9:30-10:30 a.m. (Tues.), AAHOM Green Room (lower level), 220 E. Ann. \$12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995-5439.

**★Remote-Controlled Car Racing: Washtenaw RC Raceway.** Jan. 2, 16, & 30. One of the largest regular gatherings of RC racers in the country features off-road dirt-track racing for stock and modified model electric trucks and buggies. Spectators welcome. Food concessions. 10:30 a.m.-midnight, Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Doors open at 8 a.m. Free admission. \$16 to race (\$8 to rent a car, if available). (517) 960-5252.

**★Story Time: Bookbound.** Every Tues. & Sat. Linda Zimmer reads seasonal stories for kids age 6 & under. 11 a.m. (Sat.) & 6 p.m. (Tues.), Bookbound, 1729 Plymouth, Courtyard Shops. Free. 369-4345.

**★Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble.** Every Sat. Storytelling programs and occasional craft activities for kids age 3 & up. 11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

**U-M Natural History Museum Planetarium.** Every Sat. & Sun. Three different audiovisual planetarium shows. *The Sky Tonight* (Sat. 11:30 a.m., Sat. & Sun. 1:30 & 3:30 p.m.) is an exploration of the current night sky. *Cosmic Colors* (Sat. 12:30 p.m.) is an audiovisual journey across the entire electromagnetic spectrum that explores the reasons for color, the nature of X-rays, and more. *Losing the Dark* (Sat. & Sun. 2:30 p.m.) explores the growing effects of light pollution, followed by a talk about the stars visible in the current night sky. Various times, U-M Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. \$5. 764-0478.

**Draw Doubles: Local 101 Disc Golf Club.** Every Sat. All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole courses. Beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Discs can be borrowed at park office. Noon, Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. \$7 per player; free for spectators. \$7 vehicle entrance fee. 449-4300.

**U-M Men's Basketball vs. Penn State.** The U-M also has games this month against Maryland (Jan. 12, 9 p.m.), Minnesota (Jan. 20, 8:30 p.m.) and Rutgers (Jan. 27, 7 p.m.). Noon, Crisler Center. Ticket prices TBA at [mgoblue.com/tickets](http://mgoblue.com/tickets). 764-0247.

**★Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Every Thurs., Sat., & Sun., Dec.-Mar. The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. A similar ride leaves Tues., Thurs., & Fri. at 11 a.m. from the gazebo in down-



**Note:** Most educational documentaries are listed with the daily Events.

**Ann Arbor District Library.** FREE. 327-4555. AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave., various times & room locations.

**Jan. 14: "Outstanding Films from the 2015 Ann Arbor Film Festival."** Screening of 8 films from the 53rd edition of this internationally renowned local independent and experimental film festival, ranging from Hungarian animator Réka Bucsí's series of 47 surreal, absurd, and poignant animated vignettes *Symphony No. 42* to *Babash*, Lisa Truttmann and Behrouz Rae's beguiling observational portrait of a Farsi-speaking parrot, and Brazilian artist Pablo Lobato's *Corda*, a kinetic close-up observation of Círio de Nazaré, one of the world's biggest Catholic processions. AADL multipurpose room, 7-8:30 p.m.

**Ann Arbor Senior Center.** \$2 (members, free). 794-6250. 1320 Baldwin, 12:30 p.m.

**Every Mon.: "Movie Matinee,"** with films TBA.

**Fathom Events.** 973-8424 (Rave) & 623-7469 (Quality 16). Different times & locations.

**Jan. 5 & 6: "Sherlock: The Abominable Bride."** Screening of this BBC feature-length holiday TV special, a classic Sherlock Holmes murder mystery set in 1895 London. Stars Benedict Cumberbatch as Holmes and Martin Freeman as Dr. Watson. Tickets \$14 (seniors, \$13; kids, \$12) in advance at fathomevents.com/event/Sherlock. Rave (4100 Carpenter), 7:30 p.m.

**Jan. 17 & 20: "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid"** (George Roy Hill, 1969). Oscar-winning serio-comic western about outlaws on the lam from a determined posse. Paul Newman, Robert Redford, Katharine Ross, Strother Martin. \$12 in advance at fathomevents.com. Quality 16 (3686 Jackson), 2 p.m. (Jan. 17) & 7 p.m. (Jan. 20).

**Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** \$5 suggested donation. 327-0270. 704 Airport Blvd., 8 p.m.

**Jan. 16: "Spiritual Cinema."** Screening of a feature film or several shorts TBA with spiritual themes. Followed by discussion.

**Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** FREE. 994-3387. Jewel Heart (1129 Oak Valley Dr. between Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. & Ellsworth), 7 p.m.

**Jan. 29: "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly"** (Julian Schnabel, 2007). A massive stroke at age 42 leaves a journalist with no way to communicate except by blinking one eye. Based on former *Elle France* editor Jean-Dominique Bauby's memoir.

**Karma Thegsum Choling.** FREE. 678-7549. 614 Miner, 7:30 p.m.

**Jan. 20: "Samsara"** (Ron Fricke, 2011). Billed as a "nonverbal guided meditation," this non-narrative documentary shot in 25 countries on 5 continents explores varied worlds of sacred grounds, disaster zones, industrial complexes, and natural wonders.

**"Latino Americans: 500 Years of History."** A series of 6 episodes, created by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association, featuring documentary film screenings and discussions exploring the history and experiences of Latinos. The series runs through April, with each

session presented in English (Mon.) and in Spanish (Wed.). FREE. 327-4555. Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave., 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**Jan. 18 & 20: "Foreigners in Their Own Land (1565-1880)."** This episode focuses on the Spanish and then Mexican settlement of the American Southwest and California and the subsequent absorption of these populations into the United States. Followed by discussion led by U-M American culture professor Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes.

**Jan. 25 & 27: "Empire of Dreams (1880-1942)."** This episode covers the causes and effects of widespread immigration to the U.S. from Cuba, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and other Latin countries. Followed by discussion led by U-M American culture professor Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof.

**Michigan Theater Foundation.** Unless there is a live show in the main theater, 2 or 3 different films are shown, usually twice, almost every night. For complete, updated schedules, see michtheater.org or call 668-TIME. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): \$10 (children under 12, students with ID, seniors age 55 & older, & U.S. veterans, \$8; MTF members, \$7.50; weekdays before 6 p.m., \$7). Michigan Theater (unless otherwise noted), times TBA unless otherwise noted.

**Jan. 1 & other dates TBA: "Carol"** (Todd Haynes, 2015). A young woman falls for an older married woman in 1950s New York. Rooney Mara, Cate Blanchett.

**Jan. 1 & other dates TBA: "Youth"** (Paolo Sorrentino, 2015). A retired orchestra conductor is on vacation in the Alps when he receives an invitation from Queen Elizabeth to perform for Prince Philip's birthday. Michael Caine, Harvey Keitel, Rachel Weisz.

**Jan. 10: "Anybody Can Dance 2"** (Remo D'Souza, 2015). Indian 3-D dance film about the career journey of 2 childhood friends from suburban Mumbai who form a dance team that eventually wins the World Dance Championship in Las Vegas. 1:30 p.m.

**Opens Jan. 18: "Chi-raq"** (Spike Lee, 2015). A modern day retelling of *Lysistrata*, set against the backdrop of Chicago gang violence.

**Jan. 19: "Tim's Vermeer"** (Penn Jillette & Farley Ziegler, 2014). Documentary about inventor Tim Jenison's efforts to duplicate the painting techniques of Johannes Vermeer in order to test his theory that Vermeer painted with the help of optical devices. Followed by a brief talk by U-M physics professor Tim Chupp. 7 p.m.

**Jan. 22, 26, & 28: "Hitchcock/Truffaut"** (Kent Jones, 2015). Documentary in which famous filmmakers discuss how Francois Truffaut's 1966 book, *Cinema According to Hitchcock*, influenced their work.

**Jan. 25: "The Diplomat"** (David Holbrook, 2015). Documentary about the life and legacy of Ambassador Richard Holbrook, whose career spanned 50 years from Vietnam to Afghanistan. With an introductory talk by former U.S. Secretary of State Christopher Hill. Presented by the U-M Ford School for Public Policy. Free. 7 p.m.

**Opens Jan. 29: "Oscar Shorts 2016,"** including animated, live action, and documentary programs.

musicians invited for a contra dance music open jam. Bring Judi Morningstar's *The Ruffwater Fakebook*, Susan Songer's *The Portland Collection*, and Bill Matthiesen's *The Waltz Book* if you have them. 3-6 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). Free. 994-9307.

**"Strum & Drum": Oz's Music Environment.** Families invited to get on stage to sing and make music on a variety of instruments. Also, at 4 p.m. a free Kids Open Stage. 3-4 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. \$15 per family. 662-8283.

**1st Saturday International and Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance.** Drake Meadow calls to music by Twas Brilleg & the Mazel Toves. All dances taught; no partner needed. Bring flat, smooth-sole shoes. The program begins with an hour of international dancing. Preceded at 5:30 p.m. by a potluck and silent auction. 7-11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). \$11 (members, \$10; students, \$6). 662-9290, 769-1052.

**"Drum 4 Wellness Circle": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** All invited to join a drum circle led by percussionist Curtis Glatter. Bring a drum or use one provided. 7:30-9 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. \$5 suggested donation. 480-1219.

**Milonga: U-M Michigan Argentine Tango Club.** Jan. 2 & 16. Tango dancing to music spun by a DJ. 8 p.m.-midnight, Michigan Union Anderson Room (Jan. 2) & Michigan League Vandenberg Room (Jan. 16). \$10 (members, \$5). umich.edu/~matc

**"A Christmas Carol": National Theatre of Scotland (University Musical Society).** See 1 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

**Joe List: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** A fast-rising 33-year-old comic from Boston who recently

presented his first Comedy Central special. List is known for his worrywart persona and cerebral, often self-deprecating, observational humor. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$12 reserved seating in advance, \$14 general admission at the door. 996-9080.

**State Theater.** For complete, updated schedule, see michtheater.org or call 761-8667. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): \$10 (children under 12, students with ID, seniors age 55 & older, & U.S. veterans, \$8; MTF members, \$7.50; films before 6 p.m. & midnight movies, \$8).

**Jan. 1 & other dates TBA: "The Danish Girl"** (Tom Hooper, 2015). Biopic about the relationship between 1920s Danish artist Gerda Wegener and her pioneering transgender husband who had one of the first male-to-female sex reassignment surgeries.

**Jan. 1 & other dates TBA: "Joy"** (David O. Russell, 2015). Comic drama about a woman who becomes founder and matriarch of a powerful family business dynasty. Jennifer Lawrence, Bradley Cooper, Robert De Niro.

**Jan. 9: "The Big Lebowski"** (Joel & Ethan Coen, 1998). Beloved comedy starring Jeff Bridges as an L.A. slacker who's commissioned by a namesake to ransom the latter's kidnapped trophy wife. John Goodman, Steve Buscemi, Julianne Moore. Midnight.

**Jan. 13: "Oldboy"** (Park Chan-wook, 2003). Korean neo-noir mystery thriller. 7 p.m.

**Opens Jan. 15: "Theeb"** (Naji Abu Nowar, 2015). A young Bedouin boy grows up fast during WWI when he embarks on a perilous desert journey to guide a British officer to a secret destination.

**Jan. 20: "Ghost in the Shell"** (Mamoru Oshii, 1995). Animated sci-fi, based on the Masamune Shirow manga, about a public security agency's hunt for a mysterious hacker.

**Opens Jan. 22: "Anomalisa"** (Duke Johnson & Charlie Kaufman, 2015). Stop-motion animated adult comic drama about a man crippled by banality whose life is changed by an extraordinary experience.

**Jan. 27: "Alakazam the Great"** (Taiji Yabushita, Osamu Tezuka, Daisaku Shirakawa, 1960). Anime musical about the magical spiritual journey of a young and brave monkey.

**U-M Center for Chinese Studies Film Series.** FREE. 764-6308. Location TBA, various times.

**Jan. 30: "Red Amnesia"** (Wang Xiaoshuai, 2014). A stubborn retired widow spends her days caring for her 2 grown sons and elderly mother, despite her family efforts to stop her, but her routine starts derailing when she keeps receiving anonymous calls. Mandarin, subtitles. 7 p.m.

**U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies.** FREE. 764-0352. UMMMA Auditorium (525 S. State), 5:30 p.m.

**Jan. 26: "Don't Think I've Forgotten: Cambodia's Lost Rock and Roll"** (John Pirozzi, 2014). Documentary about Cambodia's tragic past told through the perspective and songs of its popular music stars of the 50s, 60s, and 70s.

**U-M Nam Center for Korean Studies "Korean Cinema NOW."** Korean, subtitles. FREE. 764-1825. Michigan Theater, 2 p.m.

**Jan. 9: "Revivre"** (Kwon-taek Im, 2014). A successful marketing executive falls for a young coworker while balancing his work with caring for his ailing wife.

**Jan. 16: Film TBA.**

presented his first Comedy Central special. List is known for his worrywart persona and cerebral, often self-deprecating, observational humor. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$12 reserved seating in advance, \$14 general admission at the door. 996-9080.

**"Pointless Improv": Pointless Brewery & Theatre.** See 1 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

## 3 SUNDAY

★**"Annual New Year Hike, Potluck, & Nature Sharing": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to Lake Genevieve and back. Followed by a potluck (bring a dish to pass) by the fireplace and a chance to tell nature stories. Bring 10-15 nature photos on a disc or flash drive, if you wish to show them. Note: Cabin is a 5-minute uphill walk from the parking lot. Call ahead to arrange to drive to the cabin, if necessary. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Park Lyndon South (park in the east lot and meet at the cabin), North Territorial, 15 miles west of US-23, Lyndon Twp. Free. stonerf@washtenaw.org; 971-6337, ext. 334.

★**"Sundays with Gelek Rimpoche": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** Every Sun. Talk by Gelek Rimpoche, an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor. 11 a.m.-noon, Jewel Heart Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (between Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. & Ellsworth). Free. 994-3387.

★**H.A.C. Ultimate.** Every Sun. All invited to a relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. Note: Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. 11:15 a.m., Fuller Park, just west of the pool & parking lot. Free. hac-ultimateist@googlegroups.com, 846-9418.

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**C.S. GISCOMBE**  
Janey Lack Poetry Reading  
Q&A  
Thurs, January 7, 2:00 pm  
Hopwood Room

Reading & Book Signing  
5:30 pm, Helmut Stern Auditorium  
U-M Museum of Art

**MAGGIE SHIPSTEAD/JENNIFER DUBOIS**  
Q&A  
Thurs, January 14, 2:00 pm  
Hopwood Room

Fiction Reading & Book Signing  
5:30 pm, Helmut Stern Auditorium  
U-M Museum of Art

**ANNE CARSON**  
Poetry Reading  
Thurs, January 21, 5:30 pm  
Helmut Stern Auditorium  
U-M Museum of Art

**FEBRUARY**

**NO VIOLET BULAWAYO**  
Q&A  
Thurs, February 11, 2:00 pm  
Hopwood Room

Reading & Book Signing  
5:30 pm, Helmut Stern Auditorium  
U-M Museum of Art

**ANGELA FLOURNOY**  
Janey Lack Fiction Reading  
Q&A  
Thurs, February 18, 2:00 pm  
Hopwood Room

Fiction Reading & Book Signing  
5:30 pm, Helmut Stern Auditorium  
U-M Museum of Art

For more information: lsa.umich.edu/writers  
All events are free and open to the public.

town Dexter (994-5908), Tues. & Thurs. from Bird Hills Park parking lot (545-0451) on Newport Rd. at 10 a.m., and Fri. from Olson Park (545-0451) on Dhu Varren at Pontiac Tr. at 10 a.m. Note: Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, a cell phone, and snacks. 1 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), 10 a.m. (Sun.), & 6:30 p.m. (Thurs.) meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 994-5908 (Sat. & Sun.), 662-0205 (Thurs.).

**"Professor Ray's Everyday Science": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.** Jan. 2 & 3. Entertaining science demo geared toward kids. Today's theme, "Spinning Things," includes a squash spun like a top, tops stacked 5 high, and more. 1-3:30 p.m., AAHOM Legacy Gallery, 220 E. Ann. \$12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995-5439.

★**Dinosaur Tours: U-M Natural History Museum.** Every Sat. & Sun. 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. 2 p.m., U-M Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764-0478.

★**"DIY Snow Globes": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to bring a figurine or toy to install in a snow globe. Other materials provided. 2-3 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

★**Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** Every Sat. All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. Attendees asked to call ahead if there's inclement weather. 2:30-5 p.m., U-M Diag. Free. juggling.info@umich.edu, umich.edu/~juggle, 761-1115.

★**Pittsfield Open Band: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance.** Jan. 2 & 16. All



# January Events

EXPLORE THE FULL 2015-16 LINEUP AT UMS.ORG.



SUPPORTED BY THE  
Renegade Ventures Fund,  
established by  
Maxine and Stuart Frankel

FUNDED IN PART BY  
Building Audiences for  
Sustainability initiative of  
The Wallace Foundation and the  
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RELATED ACTIVITIES  
FUNDED IN PART BY  
Engaging Dance Audiences,  
a program of Dance/USA

MEDIA PARTNERS  
WDET 101.9 FM and  
Ann Arbor's 107one

## Young Jean Lee's Theater Company

UMS SHOWCASES YOUNG JEAN LEE'S TWO MOST RECENT THEATRICAL ESSAYS ON GENDER AND IDENTITY.

Young Jean Lee, artistic director  
Aaron Rosenblum, producing director

### STRAIGHT WHITE MEN

Friday, January 22 // 8 pm  
Saturday, January 23 // 2 pm & 8 pm  
Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

"A compassionate study of one man's uneasy search for meaning, and his discovery that, in the world of straight white men, failure may be acceptable, but being content with a disappointed life is most definitely not." (*New York Times*)

### UNTITLED FEMINIST SHOW

Thursday, January 21 // 7:30 pm  
Friday, January 22 // 8 pm  
Power Center

Six utterly charismatic stars of the downtown theater, dance, cabaret, and burlesque worlds perform a fully nude, wordless celebration of identity.

*Untitled Feminist Show is recommended for mature audiences; performance contains (a lot of) nudity.*





## What's in a Song?

Martin Katz, **CURATOR AND PIANIST**

Friday, January 8 // 8 pm  
Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

In this kickoff event to UMS's Song Remix Series, Martin Katz joins with David Daniels, Frederica von Stade, Jesse Blumberg, Janai Brugger, and William Ferguson for an exploration of song, with each artist performing an individual set.

SUPPORTED BY The Maurice and Linda Binkow Vocal and Chamber Arts Fund

Jamie Barton, **MEZZO-SOPRANO**

Martin Katz, **PIANO**

Sunday, January 10 // 4 pm  
Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

2015 Richard Tucker Award winner Jamie Barton is only in her early 30s but has already scored leading roles in some of the most prestigious opera houses in the world, drawing high marks for her sumptuous voice.

### PROGRAM

Includes works of Turina, Chausson, Schubert, Dvořák, and Rachmaninoff

MEDIA PARTNER WRCJ 90.9 FM

## Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Pinchas Zukerman, principal guest conductor and violin

Monday, January 11 // 7:30 pm  
Hill Auditorium

### PROGRAM

Beethoven	<i>Egmont</i> Overture, Op. 84
Beethoven	Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 61
Elgar	"Enigma" Variations, Op. 36

SUPPORTED BY Gil Omenn and Martha Darling and by Max Wicha and Sheila Crowley

MEDIA PARTNERS WGTE 91.3 FM and WRCJ 90.9 FM

HD BROADCAST FROM THE NATIONAL THEATRE, LONDON

## Shakespeare's *Hamlet*

Starring Benedict Cumberbatch

Directed by Lyndsey Turner

Sunday, January 17 // 7 pm  
Michigan Theater

Forced to avenge his father's death but paralyzed by the task ahead, Hamlet rages against the impossibility of his predicament, threatening both his sanity and the security of the state.

## Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis

## *Jazz in the Key of Life*

Wednesday, January 20 // 7:30 pm  
Hill Auditorium

The JLCO with Wynton Marsalis perform the most skillfully crafted and sophisticated songs in popular music from the 1960's to today, revisiting the hits of Stevie Wonder, Donny Hathaway, and more.

SPONSORED BY mckinley

MEDIA PARTNER WEMU 89.1 FM

## Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

Wu Han, piano and artistic director

Friday, January 22 // 8 pm  
Rackham Auditorium

### PROGRAM

Mozart	Quartet in E-flat Major for Piano, Violin, Viola, and Cello, K. 493
Schubert	Rondo in A Major for Violin and Strings, D. 438
Mendelssohn	Double Concerto in d minor for Violin, Piano, and Strings

MEDIA PARTNERS WGTE 91.3 FM and WRCJ 90.9 FM

HD BROADCAST FROM THE NATIONAL THEATRE, LONDON

## *Jane Eyre*

Based on the novel by Charlotte Brontë

Directed by Sally Cookson

Sunday, January 24 // 7 pm  
Michigan Theater

From her beginnings as a destitute orphan, Jane Eyre's spirited heroine faces life's obstacles head-on, surviving poverty, injustice, and the discovery of bitter betrayal before making the ultimate decision to follow her heart.

## Ms. Lisa Fischer and Grand Baton

Wednesday, January 27 // 7:30 pm  
Michigan Theater

By any measure of talent and accomplishment, Lisa Fischer is a superstar. Yet, if you do not know her name it's likely because she has spent the last 20 years as a backup singer for the Rolling Stones, Sting, Chris Botti and countless others. The breakout documentary *20 Feet From Stardom* raised her profile so high that she is taking her show on the road, claiming her well-deserved place center stage as she delivers classic songs from across the rock and pop universe.

SUPPORTED BY Leslee and Michael Perlstein in honor of Margie McKinley

MEDIA PARTNERS WEMU 89.1 FM and Ann Arbor's 107one



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## Events at the Institute for the Humanities University of Michigan January 2016

### EVENTS FROM THE 2015-16 YEAR OF CONVERSIONS

A year-long examination of change and transformation.

All events are held at the Institute for the Humanities, 202 S. Thayer, unless otherwise noted.

All events are free and open to the public

734.936.3518

humint@umich.edu



Photo by Pawel Figurski

## The Hub

Innovative exhibitions and arts programming.

**Jan 20** — Kent Monkman artist talk, 2pm

**Jan 21 - Feb 26** — *Scent of a Beaver*, installation by Kent Monkman, gallery hours: M-F 9am-5pm

**Jan 21** — *Scent of a Beaver* opening reception with Kent Monkman, 5:30pm

**Jan 21 - Feb 26** — *Converging Paths: The Photography of Pawel Figurski*, Common Room hours: M-F 9am-5pm

**Jan 27** — CREES Interview: "Converging Paths: The Artist in Conversation," Jeffrey Veidlinger and Geneviève Zubrzycki interview photographer Pawel Figurski, 4pm-5:30pm, reception to follow

## Author's Forum

A series on books & ideas presented in collaboration with the University Library and the Ann Arbor Book Festival.

**Jan 20** — *The Cherokee Rose: A Conversation* with Tiya Miles and Martha Jones, Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, 913 S. University, Library Gallery, #100, 5:30pm

## FellowSpeak

Ongoing exchange with our fellows past and present.

**Jan 19** — Melanie Yergeau, "'Coming Out,' or Disclosing Autism to Doubting Publics," 12:30pm

## Digital Currents

Humanities scholarship in and about digital environments.

**Jan 22** — *Survival Strategies for Humanities Researchers: Organizing and Managing Your Research Materials*, Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, 913 S. University, Gallery Lab, #100, 10am-4pm

## Early Modern Conversions

Rethinking Early Modern Europe as an "Age of Conversion."

**Jan 29** — *Metamorphosis, Transformation, and Conversion: A Symposium on Ovid, Lyly, and Benserade*, 9:30am-5:15pm

**Magic: The Gathering Tournament: Get Your Game On.** Every Sun.-Fri., except Jan. 1. All invited to compete in tournaments of this popular collectible card game using modern constructed (Mon.), Elder Dragon Highlander/Commander (Tues.), Legacy (Wed.), standard constructed (Thurs.), and booster draft (Fri. & Sun.) decks. Prizes. Bring your own cards (except Fri. & Sun.). Noon (Sun.) & 6 p.m. (Mon.-Fri.). *Get Your Game On*, 310 S. State. \$5 (Tues., free; Sun. & Fri., \$15 includes cards). 786-3746.

**"Kerry Tales: Happy New Year with Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. 2 p.m., Hollander's, 410 N. Fourth Ave. (Kerrytown). Free. 769-3115.

**Tour: Zingerman's Creamery.** Zingerman's Creamery staff lead a tour of the facility and show how Zingerman's cheeses and gelato are made. Tastings. 2-3 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$10. Reservations required. 929-0500.

**"Music in the Moment": Ann Arbor District Library.** The Stratus Ensemble—the local duo of flutist Joanna Goldstein and percussionist Shane Jones—shows kids in grades K-5 how to make music that tells stories. 2-2:45 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

**"DIY Hanging Frame": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to learn how to make a simple frame in which to hang a poster or piece of graphic art. 2-3 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-8301.

**"Magic Puffing Snow": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades 3-8 invited to learn how to use simple ingredients to make something that resembles snow. 2-3 p.m., AADL Secret Lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

**"A Christmas Carol": National Theatre of Scotland (University Musical Society).** See 1 Friday. 2 & 6 p.m.

**★Ann Arbor Morris.** Every Sun. All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance thought to be descended from the 15th-century Spanish *moresca*. Wear athletic shoes. 6-8 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse (off S. State across from the airport). Free. Email a2morris@umich.edu to confirm. 717-1569.

**★Ann Arbor Go Club.** Every Sun. & Thurs. Players of all skill levels invited to play what's regarded as the world's most difficult board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. 7 p.m.-close (usually midnight), Espresso Royale, 324 S. State. Free. umich.edu/~goclub

**"The Open Stage": Pointless Brewery & Theatre.** Every Sun. All performers invited to showcase their talents. 7 p.m., Pointless Brewery & Theatre, 3014 Packard. Free admission. Registration available at goo.gl/forms/1o9FE7Bv57. info@pointlessbrew.com

**"Ann Arbor Community Sing": Ann Arbor Senior Center.** All invited to join this monthly gathering to sing songs from the various branches of American folk music. 7-9 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$5. 794-6250.

**Ann Arbor Poetry Slam.** Jan. 3 & 17. All poets invited to compete in a poetry slam judged by a panel randomly chosen from the audience. The program begins with a poetry open mike and (occasionally) a short set by a featured poet. 7-9 p.m. (sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m.), Espresso Royale, 324 S. State. \$5 suggested donation. A2poetry.com

**Perrin Grace's AMP Trio: Kerrytown Concert House.** Bassist (and Community High grad) Grace is joined by pianist Addison Frei and drummer Matt Young—both members of the renowned University of North Texas One O'Clock Lab Band—in originals from their new album, *m(y)our world*, and arrangements of jazz standards. 7 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10-\$25 (students, \$5). Reservations recommended. kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769-2999.

## 4 MONDAY

**★"Playgroups for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** Every Mon. Playgroup for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. Note: Playgroups are also offered at 3 AADL branches: Malletts Creek (Tues. 10-11 a.m. & Thurs. 6:30-7:30 p.m.), 3090 E. Eisenhower between Stone School & Packard; Pittsfield (Wed. 11 a.m.-noon), 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.; and Traverwood (Fri. 10:30-11:30 a.m.) 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. 10:30-11:30 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

**★Bridge: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** Every Mon. & Fri. beginning Jan. 4. All seniors invited to play bridge. Some experience necessary. 12:30-4:30 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

**Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** Every Mon., Wed., & Thurs. All ages invited to play non-

sanctioned (Mon.) & ACBL-sanctioned (Wed. & Thurs.) duplicate bridge. Bring a partner. Refreshments. 12:30-4 p.m. (Mon.) & noon-3:45 p.m. (Wed. & Thurs.), Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$3 (members, \$2) on Mon., \$7 (members, \$6) on Wed. & Thurs. 794-6250.

**★ESL Conversation Group: Ann Arbor District Library.** Every Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri. beginning Jan. 4. All levels of English speakers invited for conversation. 1-2:30 p.m. (Mon.), AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.; 7-8:30 p.m. (Mon. & Tues.), AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy.; 6-7:30 p.m. (Wed.) & 1-2:30 p.m. (Fri.), AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower between Stone School & Packard. Free. 327-4200.

**★Writing Group: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** Every Mon. All seniors invited to read and discuss poetry, essays, fiction, and reminiscences they have written. 1-3 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

**Social Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** Every Mon. & Thurs. All ages invited to play this intricate game that uses colorful tiles. Lunch available at 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. (\$5.50; age 60 & over, \$3; reservations required). 1-3:30 p.m. (Mon.) & 10-11:30 a.m. (Thurs.), Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$2 (members, free). 794-6250.

**★"Ann Arbor Downtown Group Run": Running Fit.** Every Mon. & Thurs. Runners of all abilities invited to join a weekly run, 3-8 miles, along varying routes. Snacks provided. Rain or shine. 6:15 p.m. (Mon.) & 6:30 p.m. (Thurs.), Running Fit, 123 E. Liberty. Free. 769-5016.

**★Thomas Lynch: Literati Bookstore.** This internationally acclaimed Milford poet and essayist, the bestselling author of *The Undertaking*, reads from and discusses *The Good Book: Writers Reflect on Favorite Bible Passages*, a new anthology he contributed to. "It's the Sunday School class you've been waiting for," says Garrison Keillor. "The one whose members have thought long and hard about the texts and are free to say what they think." Signing. 7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

**Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers.** Every Mon. Jigs, reels, and strathspeys. Usually with live music. All dances taught; beginners welcome. 7:30-9:30 p.m., the Barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver. \$5. 395-7782, 769-1052, 426-0241.

**"2nd Annual Ann Arbor 50 First Jokes": The Ark.** Fifty comics from around Michigan, including both veterans and upstarts, take turns telling the 1st joke they've written in 2016. Similar events, which began at the Bell House in Brooklyn 10 years ago, now also take place in New Orleans and L.A. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$10 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office (mutotix.com) and theark.org, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

**Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub.** Every Mon. Local high school English teacher Barry Aherne throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Come with a team (up to 6 people) or join one. Prizes. 8:30-11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. \$5 team fee. 665-2968.

## 5 TUESDAY

**Coffee Break: Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church.** Every Tues. (when Ann Arbor Public Schools are in session). All women invited to study the Bible with other American and international women in small, informal groups. Also, Bible stories and fun activities for preschoolers, and child care provided for babies. 9:45-11:15 a.m. & 1:15-2:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church, 1717 Broadway. \$15 for the year. 665-0105.

**★"Story Time with Ieva": Nicola's Books.** Every Tues. Retired youth librarian Ieva Bates reads stories and leads a craft for preschoolers. 10 a.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

**★Preschool Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** Every Tues. & Wed. Stories and songs for kids ages 2-5 (accompanied by an adult). Note: These storytimes are also offered at the Traverwood (Tues., 11-11:30 a.m.; Wed., 6-6:30 p.m.; & Thurs. 10-10:30 a.m.), Malletts Creek (Wed. 10-10:30 a.m.), and Pittsfield (Thurs. 7-7:30 p.m. & Fri. 10-10:30 a.m.) branches. 10-10:30 a.m. (Tues.) & 11-11:30 a.m. (Wed.), AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

**Scrabble: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** Every Tues. All ages invited to play this popular word game. Lunch available for \$5.50 (age 60 & over, \$3) at 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; reservations required. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$2 (members, free). 794-6250.

**★Weekly Rehearsal: Voices Valiant (U-M School of Music).** Every Tues. All age 50 & over invited to join this choir. No experience necessary. 10:30 a.m.-noon, Divine Shepard Lutheran Church, 2600 Nixon.

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Free for visitors (\$112 per cycle membership dues). 936-2660.

**★Adults Tuesday: Jewish Community Center.** Every Tues. Activities begin at 11 a.m. with "Energy Exercise" (\$4), a 60-minute workout led by Maria Farquhar. Also, at 1 p.m., mah-jongg, quilting, and other games & activities, and at 1:30 p.m., Yiddish Tish, a Yiddish conversation group that also includes readings of Yiddish stories. Homemade buffet luncheon (\$3) available at noon. All invited. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free (except as noted). 971-0990.

**★Dinner Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Every Tues. Dec.-Mar. 10- to 20-mile ride, at various paces, along the well-maintained Border-to-Border Trail, to a restaurant in either Ann Arbor or Ypsilanti. Front & back lights required, reflective clothing strongly recommended. 6 p.m., ride usually starts from Gallup Park parking lot just south of the bridge over the Huron River. Free. 678-8297, 971-2121.

**★"Ann Arbor East Group Run": Running Fit.** Every Tues. Runners of all abilities invited to join a weekly run, 3-8 miles, along varying routes. Snacks provided. Rain or shine. 6:15 p.m., Running Fit, 3010 Washtenaw. Free. 548-6299.

**★"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch.** Every Tues. All knitters invited to work on their projects and swap knitting tips. 6:30-8:30 p.m., location TBA at [meetup.com/ann-arbor-StitchNBitch/](http://meetup.com/ann-arbor-StitchNBitch/). Free. 945-3035.

**★Feminist Book Club: Literati Bookstore.** All invited to discuss *Hausfrau*, Jill Alexander Essbaum's novel about an American housewife in Zurich who distracts herself from her own depression with German language classes, Jungian analysis, and a series of affairs. 7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

**English Country Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance.** Every Tues. Historical and traditional English dancing to live music. All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Bring flat, nonslip shoes (running shoes OK). First-timers are asked to arrive at 7 p.m. 7-9:30 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. (park on Burbank). \$8 (students, \$4; kids age 13 & under with a parent, free). 665-7704.

**★"3-D Printed Prosthetics": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local E-Nable representative Daniel Dugan discusses and demonstrates this global volunteer organization's initiative to use home 3-D printing to produce parts to make prosthetic limbs. 7-8 p.m., AADL secret lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

**★"Water: The Most Misunderstood Yet Most Important Nutrient In Your Life": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by veteran Michigan water purification expert Ron Shook. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

**★Weekly Rehearsal: Treetown Community Chorus.** Every Tues., Jan. 5-Apr. 26. All invited to join this fun-loving independent local mixed chorus to sing mostly familiar tunes, along with some serious music, in various genres. David Perample directs. 7-9 p.m., Gladwin Center barn, 4105 W. Liberty. Free to visitors (\$80 per semester dues for those who join). 355-7738.

**★Voices in Harmony Sweet Adelines.** Every Tues. All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 70-member a cappella barbershop harmony chorus. 7-9:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (\$26 monthly dues for those who join). 612-7580.

**★Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.** Every Tues. All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. 7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (\$130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance: Greg Humbel, 445-1925.

**★Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of *Contigo en la Distancia*, Carla Guelfenbein's novel about the secret life of a writer who suffers a near-fatal accident. 7:30 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

**★Ann Arbor Camera Club.** Jan. 5 & 19, Jan. 5: A panel of expert photographers critique club members' previously submitted projected images. Jan. 19: Noted local photographer and WCC photography instructor Terry Abrams discusses personal projects and/or photographic trends. Also, club members show their recent digital images (Jan. 5) & prints (Jan. 19) on various topics, including this month's assignment, "Sports." 7:30 p.m., Wines Elementary School auditorium (Jan. 5), 1701 Newport, & Forsythe Middle School media center (Jan. 19), 1655 Newport. Free. 327-4781.

## What's going on in Ann Arbor?

Check out Ann Arbor's most comprehensive events calendar.

**Ann Arbor Observer**  
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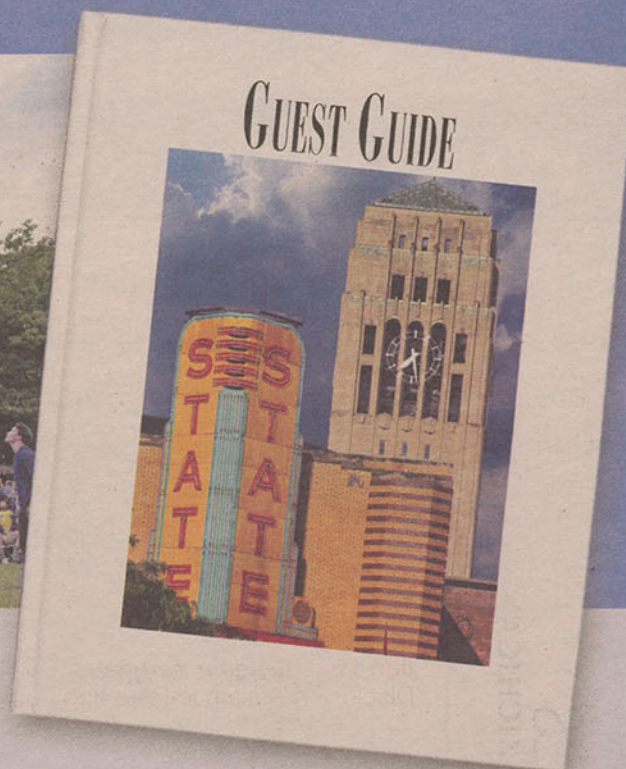
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★German Speakers Round Table. Every Tues. All German speakers invited for conversation. 8-10 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 453-2394.

Opera on Tap. Local opera singers perform arias and art songs that address this month's theme, "Frozen Hearts." 8:30-10 p.m. (seating begins at 6:30 p.m.), Sidetrack Bar & Grill, 56 E. Cross, Ypsilanti. Free, but donations accepted (buy your own food). Reservations required (call between 10 a.m. & 8 p.m.). 483-5230.

### 6 WEDNESDAY

"Nature Tales": Leslie Science and Nature Center. Jan. 6 & 9. All kids ages 1-5 (accompanied by a caregiver) invited for a reading of *Hey, Little Ant*, Phillip M. Hoose's funny story about the conversation that ensues when an ant talks back to the human who's about to step on it. 10-11 a.m. (Wed.) & 11 a.m.-noon (Sat.), Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. \$4 (members, \$3) per child. 997-1533.

★Chess: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program. Every Wed. except Dec. 30. All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. 1-4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

★"The Limits of Nuclear Landscape": U-M Physics Department Baer Lecture. MSU physics professor Witold Nazarewicz discusses rare isotopes and theoretical studies of atomic nuclei using extreme-scale computing. 4:10 p.m., 340 West Hall, 1085 South University. Free. 763-2588.

★Scrabble: Ann Arbor Scrabble Club. Every Wed. Word freaks of all abilities invited to drop in to play this popular word game, using the brand-new 5th edition Scrabble dictionary. Bring your own set, if you like. 5-8 p.m., location TBA. Free. 994-0084.

Bingo: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Wed. All invited to play bingo. Cash prizes. 6-10 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$2 admission. \$9 per game. 769-5911.

★"Ann Arbor West Group Run": Running Fit. Every Wed. Runners of all abilities invited to join a weekly run, 3-8 miles, along varying routes. Snacks provided. Rain or shine. 6:30 p.m., Running Fit, 5700 Jackson. Free. 929-9022.

★Kerrytown Crafters. Every Wed. All crocheters, knitters, cross stitchers, hand quilters, and other handworkers invited to work on their projects with other crafters. Questions welcome, help available. 6:30-8:30 p.m. or so, Sweetwaters in Kerrytown, 407 N. Fifth Ave. Free. Facebook.com/groups/KT-Crafters. 926-8863.

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. Every Wed. All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early. 7-11 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline east of Maple. (Park in the designated spaces in the lot on the north side of Pauline.) \$6 per person. 623-8050.

★Rebecca Scherm: Literati Bookstore. This U-M Zell Writers' Program alum reads from *Unbecoming*, her debut novel about a Tennessee outlaw who creates a false identity for herself and works in a grubby antiques shop in Paris. Signing. 7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

Mark Croft: On the Tracks Singer-Songwriter Showcase. Highly regarded pop-folk Americana singer-songwriter and guitarist from Madison. "Croft's skill as a rhythm guitar player distinguishes his music," says *Capital Times* writer Katjusa Cisar. "His up-tempo strumming and rapid-fire chord changes fill his songs with energy." He also talks about how he came to write these songs. Opening act is Noble Roots, an Indianapolis Americana trio. 7-9 p.m., Chelsea Depot, 125 Jackson, Chelsea. \$15 suggested donation. Info: call Annie Capps at 330-5226.

★Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club. All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. 7:30-10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad, Dexter. Free. 426-5100.

★"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America. Every Wed. All invited to join a discussion of *Intuitive Thinking as a Spiritual Path*, also known as *The Philosophy of Freedom*, one of Rudolf Steiner's first major writings and one of the basic books of anthroposophy. 7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 485-3764.

★History of Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to discuss Gary Dexter's *Why Not Catch-21? The Stories Behind the Titles*. 7:30-9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669-0451.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Every Wed. Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$5 in advance and at the door. 996-9080.

"Juke Box Jungle": Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. Every Wed. Conor O'Neill's staff member Ryan Halsey





THIBEAU

## C.S. Giscombe

### *Railroads and rivers*

C.S. Giscombe is a poet fascinated by railroads and what they teach us—about landscapes, about our relationships to the places where we live, and about history. Now a professor at UC Berkeley, he once worked as a railroad brakeman, so he knows what he's talking about. His last book, which the jacket tells us is "a poem in the essay form including appropriate maps of the territory," is called *Ohio Railroads*.

Giscombe traces the railroads through his hometown of Dayton and shows how they developed to both reflect and shape the settlement. He uses the railroads, along with rivers and roads, to mark the place of native inhabitants and the segregation of his own African American community. Giscombe re-creates the structure of the place and then puts himself inside it. He returns to Dayton for his mother's funeral and then goes out to the urban, industrial railroad for a moment of what might be consolation: "When I drove my mother's Camry to the railroad on the day following her death I stopped before driving onto the bridge itself; there would have been ample space between the tracks and the cement side of the bridge but to drive there would have been to invite the notice of the Dayton Police." That precise unsentimental observation at a moment when any sentimentality might have been excused is typical.

Giscombe does a kind of nature writing that captures the nuance of place without any of the expected lyrical or pastoral flourishes. In earlier work, he explored some of the still-wild country in British Columbia, but he was particularly interested in finding the places where a Jamaican trader and traveler of the late nineteenth century, a black man named John Robert Giscome, was the first non-native to visit and describe. Despite the spelling difference, Giscome may have been a relative of the poet, who was the first non-native to make the portage between the Fraser River and the Peace River, between the Pacific watershed and the Arctic watershed. Giscombe published a fascinating memoir/narrative/history about these discoveries, *Into and Out of Dislocation*, which grows from the story that inspired him, becoming a picture of race and colonialism without ever losing its fascination as local history of a wild place. It also includes maps!

In *Prairie Style*, another collection of prose poems, he mentions a fox he sees in Urbana, Illinois, one night while returning from a movie. "But I always see animals when I travel, birds too. Dusk to dawn, Mistah Fox is out on night patrol. There's little surprising about a location; I'd say Mistah Fox can match or resist the prairie with equal success." There are no easy descriptions of the animal, just Mistah Fox himself out doing what he does, living in his place.

C.S. Giscombe reads from his work at UMMA on Thursday, January 7.

—Keith Taylor

hosts a music trivia quiz. Prizes. 9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. \$3 team fee. 665-2968.

**Open Dancing: Swing Ann Arbor.** Every Wed. Swing dancing to recorded music. No partner needed. Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when you're active. Preceded at 8 p.m. by a lesson. 9–11 p.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Room. \$5 (students, \$4; \$1 discount for members; free for those who attend the free lesson at 8 p.m.). 945-8428.

## 7 THURSDAY

**"Violence: Its Roots and Reasons":** U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Every Thurs., Jan. 7–Feb. 11. A series of 6 weekly lectures by different U-M and guest scholars. Jan. 7: U-M psychology professor L. Rowell Huesmann discusses "The Contagion of Violence." Jan. 14: U-M history professor Heather A. Thompson on "Inner City Violence in the Age of Mass Incarceration." Jan. 21: EMU criminology professor Paul Leighton on "The Violence of Mass Incarceration: Reform and a 'New Normal?'" Jan. 28: WSU history lecturer Saeed A. Khan on "ISIS in the Middle East: 100 Years in the Making." Feb. 4: U-M nursing school health behavior professor Michelle Munro-Kramer on "The Root Causes of Sexual Violence." Feb. 11: U-M political science professor Arlene Saxonhouse on "The Decision to Go to War in a Democracy." 10–11:30 a.m.,

Rave Cinema, 4100 Carpenter. \$50 (members, \$30) for the 6-lecture series. Memberships are \$20 a year. \$10 per lecture for members. 998-9351.

**★Mah-Jongg:** U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program. Every Thurs. All seniors invited to play this intricate game that uses colorful tiles. Beginners welcome. 10 a.m.–noon, Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 332-1874.

**★Older Adults Thursday: Jewish Community Center.** Every Thurs. Activities, primarily for seniors, begin at 10 a.m. with "Energy Exercise" (\$4), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. An 11 a.m. Current Events discussion group led by Heather Dombey is followed at noon by a homemade dairy lunch (\$3 with reservation, \$4 without reservation and for nonseniors) and at 1 p.m. by a cultural or educational program. Jan. 7: Members of Janice Lieberman's Hebrew Day School class share stories they wrote this past semester. Jan. 14: A Michigan Attorney General representative on "In Home Care." Jan. 21: UMMA docent Gretta Spier presents "A Virtual Tour of the UMMA." Jan. 28: TBA. 10 a.m.–1 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free, except as noted. 971-0990.

**★Gifts of Art Concert Series: U-M Hospitals.** Every Thurs. Performances by area musicians, and a snowflake making workshop on Jan. 7. Jan. 14: Local flute & percussion duo Stratus Ensemble. Jan.

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16 JAN

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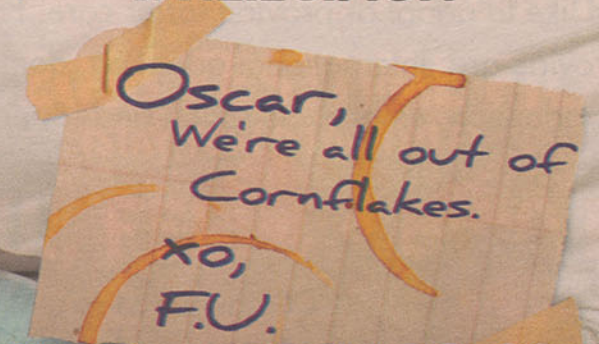
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21: Local folk singer-songwriter **Matt Watroba**. Jan. 28: Classical piano duo of **Christine Choi** and **Kyoo Hye Lim**. 12:10-1 p.m., U-M Hospital Main Lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936-ARTS.

**Ikebana International Ann Arbor Chapter**. All invited to join a session of this Japanese art of flower arranging. 1-2:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. \$15 (members, \$8) materials fee; metered parking. Preregistration required. [janet.muhleman@regroup.us](mailto:janet.muhleman@regroup.us)

★**C.S. Giscombe: U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series**. See review, p. 57. Reading by this University of California poetry professor whose work explores memory and African American experience. His 2014 *Ohio Railroads* is a long poem in essay form that draws on memories of his native Dayton and his longtime fascination with trains. Giscombe also gives a poetry reading at 2 p.m. today in the Hopwood Room (1176 Angell Hall). 5:30 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. [aireadm@umich.edu](mailto:aireadm@umich.edu), 764-6330.

★**"The Village under the Forest": U-M Ford School of Public Policy**. Screening of Mark Kaplan's documentary exploring the hidden remains of a destroyed Palestinian village that lies under a purposely cultivated forest plantation. Written and narrated by University of Western Cape (South Africa) Centre of Humanities Research researcher Heidi Grunebaum, who introduces the film and leads a short discussion following the screening. Refreshments. 6-7:30 p.m., Weill Hall Betty Ford Classroom, 735 S. State at Hill. Free. 764-3490.

**U-M Women's Basketball vs. Iowa**. The U-M also has games this month against Maryland (Jan. 14, 6 p.m.), Ohio State (Jan. 21, 6 p.m.), Nebraska (Jan. 24, 2 p.m.), and Minnesota (Jan. 31, 12:30 p.m.). 7 p.m., Crisler Center. \$3-\$8. 764-0247.

**Euchre Night: Out Loud Chorus Fundraiser**. All invited to compete in a euchre tournament. 7 p.m., Bona Sera, 200 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti. \$10. 973-6084, 663-0036.

★**"Tree Stories": Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society**. Screening of a DVD about petrified wood. 7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church social hall, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 665-5574.

**"Gin-uary, Take Two": Zingerman's Cornman Farms**. Zingerman's staff discuss the history of gin and show how to make 3 distinct cocktails: an 1860s recipe for the "Improved Holland Gin Cock-Tail" made with Dutch genever, a Martinez made with the English Old Tom style of gin, and a Gin-Gin Mule that uses a contemporary Michigan-made gin. Tastings. With appetizers. Recipes available. 7-9:30 p.m., Cornman Farms, 8540 Island Lake Rd., Dexter. \$65. Reservations required. 619-8100.

★**"City of Ann Arbor 2016 Sustainable Ann Arbor Forum: Climate and Energy": Ann Arbor District Library**. The 1st in a series of 4 monthly forums with city staff and other panelists features discussion of the city's Climate Action Plan, local impacts of climate change, and U-M sustainability programs. Panelists are Ecology Center executive director Mike Garfield, U-M sustainability rep Anya Dale, Clean Energy Coalition executive director Sean Reed, Ann Arbor Energy Commission chair Wayne Appleyard, and city energy programs analyst Nathan Geisler. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

★**"Emerging Writers: What's Stopping You from Writing": Ann Arbor District Library**. Local short story writer Alex Kourvo and young adult novelist Bethany Neal discuss how to make the most of your writing time, conquer writer's block, and develop solid work habits to finish your book. For adult and teen (grade 6 & up) fiction and nonfiction writers. Also, Kourvo and Neal host an open house for writers to connect with one another and/or work on their projects at 7 p.m. on Jan. 21. 7-8:45 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traver at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-4555.

**ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor City Club**. Every Thurs. All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. 7 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. \$7. 761-6691.

**"I'll Be Waiting": From Around Here Productions**. Jan. 7-9. Brian Cox directs local actors in Adam Emperor Southard's fast-paced mystery that jumps through time and space to tell the story of a missing woman. 7 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$15. 944-2787.

**Israeli Dancing: Jewish Community Center**. Every Thurs. Dance instructor Cheryl Felt and DJ Amnon Steiner lead a variety of Israeli dances to recorded music. Easy dances and oldies the first hour, followed by intermediate dances and requests. Beginners welcome. New dances taught each week. Wear soft-soled shoes. 7:30-10 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). \$5 (students, free). 971-0990.

★**Comhaltas**. Every Thurs. All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Detroit Irish Music Association for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. Lessons offered. 7:30-9:30 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. Free. 255-5310.

**"Company": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre**. Jan. 7-10 (see review, p. 59). Rachel Francisco directs local actors in George Furth and Stephen Sondheim's brassy, earthy 1970 musical comedy about an exorbitantly uncommitted Manhattan bachelor and his mostly married friends. The Tony-winning score includes such hit songs as "The Ladies Who Lunch," "Being Alive," "The Little Things You Do Together," and "Side by Side by Side." Cast: Robert Griswold, Jodi-Renee Giron, Paul Clark, Madison Merlanti, Nick Boyer, Trisha Fountain, James Christie, Marci Rosenberg, Amanda Bynum, Amy Bogetto-Weinraub, Matt Steward, Kate Papachristou, Chris Joseph, and Kimmy Elliott. 7:30 p.m. (Jan. 7), 8 p.m. (Jan. 8 & 9), & 2 p.m. (Jan. 10), U-M Walgreen Drama Center Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Tickets \$25 (seniors, \$22; Thurs., \$19; students, \$13) in advance at [a2ct.org](http://a2ct.org), the AACT office (322 W. Ann), & by phone. 971-2228.

**Matthew Broussard: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase**. Jan. 7-9. Young Atlanta-bred comic who was named Houston's Funniest Person in 2012 for his playful humor directed at unlikely topics like physics and grammar, along with offbeat matters like the hardships entailed in looking like a villain from an 80s movie. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$10 (Thurs.) & \$13 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$12 (Thurs.) & \$15 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-0800.

## 8 FRIDAY

★**"Kinderconcert: Music and Motion": Ann Arbor District Library**. Local early childhood educator Gari Stein, director of Music for Little Folks, and Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra trombonist Donald Babcock lead kids ages 2-5 (accompanied by an adult) in a program that includes storytelling and dancing to live music. Participants also learn about the instruments. Accompanist is U-M music faculty pianist Kathryn Goodson. 10-10:30 & 11-11:30 a.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

**First Friday Shabbat: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society**. All invited for a dinner featuring locally produced foods, preceded by a brief Shabbat observance with songs, candle lighting, wine and challah, and discussion on a theme TBA. Children welcome. 6:30-9 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). \$10 (family, \$25). Reservations required at [jewishculturalsociety.org](http://jewishculturalsociety.org). 975-9872.

★**Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department**. Jan. 8 & 22. Readings by U-M creative writing grad students. Tonight: fiction writer **Will Klein** and poet **Kathleen Schenck**. 7 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 615-3710.

**"I'll Be Waiting": From Around Here Productions**. See 7 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor**. Jan. 8 & 22. All invited to join an ongoing discussion of former Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America board member Dwight Ebaugh's lecture "Between Death and Rebirth." Familiarity with Rudolf Steiner's basic ideas is helpful. 7:30-9 p.m., location TBA. Free. 944-4903.

★**Eastern Winds: EMU Music Department**. This music faculty wind quintet presents a program TBA. 7:30 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

**Advanced English Country Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance**. Pittsburgh caller Gaye Fifer leads dances to live music by Baton Rouge pianist Kendall Rogers and local fiddler Brad Battey. For experienced dancers. 8-11 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). \$10. [ffuerst@juno.com](mailto:ffuerst@juno.com), (248) 288-4737.

**"What's in a Song?": University Musical Society**. U-M piano professor **Martin Katz** curates a choral program that explores the elements that make up a song, from the marriage of poetry and music to the interpretation of the artists. Singers include baritone **Jesse Blumberg**, soprano **Janai Brugger**, countertenor **David Daniels**, tenor **William Ferguson**, and mezzo-soprano **Frederica von Stade**. Katz accompanies. 8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets \$60-\$70 in advance at [tickets.ums.org](http://tickets.ums.org), the Michigan League, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538, (800) 221-1229.

**The Juggernaut Jug Band: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church)**. Traditional jug band music by this acclaimed quartet from Louisville, the birthplace of jug bands. A mixture of classic jazz, ragtime, and blues, jug band



# musicals



## Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's *Company*

*A talented bunch*

Stephen Sondheim's 1970 musical *Company* lacks the wild genre content of his better-known works like *Into the Woods* and *Sweeney Todd*, but the lyricist and composer's dark wit is no less provocative in this more mundane tale. *Company*, which the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre will stage January 7-10 at the Arthur Miller Theatre, follows Robert, a thirty-five-year-old chronically single New Yorker with a horde of married friends. In a series of loosely connected vignettes, Robert spends time with his various partnered acquaintances, most of whom constantly implore him to settle down while also suffocating him with their own desire to keep a single friend around and horrifying him with their own less-than-sterling married lives.

Even in the mid-December run-through I attended, Civic's production displayed confident, darkly comic energy. The production's set is minimal, using simple risers to create "apartments" for Robert and his married pals, so the emphasis is on interpersonal fireworks rather than visual spectacle. The cast rises to that challenge with considerable verve, most importantly Robby Griswold as Robert. Tall and emotive, Griswold draws one's eye throughout the show. Although Robert is *Company*'s main character, he spends much of the show watching his zany married friends run wild. A lot of nonverbal business is required of Griswold, and his reactions are compelling and often amusing. Excellent verbally as well, Griswold develops a nice comic patter with his supporting cast and showcases one of the finest voices in the production on several emotional songs.

The supporting cast is a talented bunch, bringing the snappy dialogue of George Furth's book to colorful life. Marci Rosenberg is a particular standout as the high-strung Amy, set to be married to the dotting Paula (Amanda Bynum) and less than thrilled about it. Rosenberg delivers a furious, breathtaking staccato performance in the musical number "Getting Married Today," committing wholeheartedly to her memorably bipolar character. Madison Merlanti is terrific as the somewhat dippy Susan, delivering lines about the divorced bliss she's found living with her ex-husband with exquisite comic nonchalance. As the bickery Sarah and Harry, Jodi-Renee Giron and Paul Clark do some unforgettable physical work in a choreographed karate demonstration that turns into a lengthy, sexualized wrestling match. The cast's vocal abilities vary, but Trisha Fountain as Jenny and Kate Papa-christou as Marta give particularly outstanding performances. The ensemble as a whole does some lovely harmony work on the titular opening number.

Director Rachel Francisco engages in a bit of gender-blind casting here, which works just fine in the case of Amy and Paula (Paul in the original play). But while Chris Joseph gives a fine performance in a brief appearance as Robert's former lover Kevin (Kathy in the original), Robert's apparent romantic interest in both men and women doesn't jibe with his later reaction to a male friend's questioning about homosexual experiences and subsequent come-on.

Nonetheless, Francisco draws out the humanity in a group of often over-the-top characters. There's plenty of comedy in *Company*, but also some surprisingly hard reflections on the all-consuming desire for companionship—inside and out of the much-vaunted institution of marriage.

—Patrick Dunn

music is a swaggering party music, full of high spirits and sexual humor, performed by a modified string band that includes kazoos and other wind instruments, washboard, and, of course, a stoneware jug, an instrument from which a good musician can coax a surprisingly lyrical, hauntingly reverberant sound. Juggernaut has been featured on both the *Today Show* and the *Dr. Demento* radio show, and the material on its latest CD, *You Mean We Get Paid for This?*, ranges from the Mississippi Sheiks' blues standard "Sittin' on Top of the World" to Khachaturian's "Sabre Dance." Desserts & coffee available. 8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. \$15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665-8558.

"Company": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 7 Thursday, 8 p.m.

"Pointless Improv": Pointless Brewery & Theatre. See 1 Friday, 8 p.m.

Matthew Broussard: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 7 Thursday, 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Friday Night Swing": Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association/Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Jan. 8, 15, 22, & 29. Lindy hop, East Coast swing, Charleston, and Balboa dancing to music spun by DJs. No partner needed. Preceded at 8 p.m. by a free beginner lesson. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Phoenix Center, 220 S. Main. \$5 (students with ID, \$4; \$1 discount for AACTMAD members). 417-9857.

## 9 SATURDAY

★Eco-Restoration Workday: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum. Jan. 9 & 16. All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants. Dress for outdoor work. Tools provided, or bring your own. Note: Kids age 15 & under must be accompanied by an adult. Youth ages 16-18 must submit a permission form. 9 a.m.-noon, meet at the Arb Reader Center (Jan. 9), 1610 Washington Hts., & Matthaei (Jan. 16), 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free (metered parking at Matthaei). Preregistra-

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tion required by phone or email. [tgriffit@umich.edu](mailto:tgriffit@umich.edu), 647-8528.

**Huron Gun Collectors.** Jan. 9 & 10. About 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment for sale, including antiques and collectibles. Concessions. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (Sat.) & 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (Sun.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Admission \$4. (517) 605-0624.

★“What Does the Magna Carta of 800 Years Ago Have to Do with the Ann Arbor of Today?”: Public Citizens of Washtenaw (formerly Gray Panthers of Washtenaw). Talk by retired University of Toledo history professor Peter Linebaugh, author of *The Magna Carta Manifesto: Liberties and Commons for All*. Refreshments. The program begins with coffee & socializing. 9:45 a.m.-noon, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 484-1628.

“Critters Up Close!”: Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. Jan. 9 & 10. Leslie Science and Nature Center staff show live animals. Also, animal-oriented hands-on activities. This month's featured critters are mammals. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Jan. 9) & 1-4 p.m. (Jan. 10), AAHOM Michigan Nature Gallery, 220 E. Ann. \$12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995-5439.

★“Junior Naturalist: Michigan Trees”: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Shawn Severance leads kids ages 8-12 on a hike to learn how to identify leafless trees. 10:30 a.m.-noon, County Farm Park, meet at the Medford Rd. lot. Free, but preregistration required. [severances@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:severances@ewashtenaw.org); 971-6337, ext. 335.

“Little Peeps PlayGround”: Pointless Brewery & Theatre. See 2 Saturday. 10:30 a.m.

★“Hunting Mammoths and Mastodons”: U-M Natural History Museum. Every Sat. & Sun. beginning Jan. 9. Hands-on 20-minute interactive demo exploring some of the evidence of mastodon and mammoth hunting by people who lived in Michigan between 10 and 15 thousand years ago. Also, info about a recent mammoth find by a farmer in Chelsea. Geared toward adults and kids age 5 & up. 11 a.m. (Sat.) & 3 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764-0478.

★“Read to Rikki the Dog”: Nicola's Books. All beginning readers invited to read one-on-one to Rikki, a golden retriever who's a very good listener. 1:30-3 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

★“Make Your Own Felt Flag!”: Ann Arbor District Library. Craft activity for adults and teens in grade 6 & up. 2-3 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-8301.

★“Raptor Feeding”: Leslie Science & Nature Center. Every Sat. LSNC volunteers feed and answer questions about the center's red-tailed hawk, peregrine falcon, and other resident raptors, who may come out of their enclosures to eat. 3-4 p.m. Leslie Science & Nature Center, 1831 Traver Rd. Free. 997-1553.

U-M Women's Gymnastics vs. Georgia. The U-M squad also has a match this month against Ohio State (Jan. 16). 4 p.m., Crisler Center. Ticket prices TBA at [mgoblue.com/tickets/gmw-index.html](http://mgoblue.com/tickets/gmw-index.html). 764-0247.

U-M Ice Hockey vs. MSU. The U-M also has matches this month vs. Ohio State (Jan. 15, 6:30 p.m., & Jan. 17, 5 p.m.). 7 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State. Ticket price TBA at [stubby.com/michigan-wolverines-hockey-tickets](http://stubby.com/michigan-wolverines-hockey-tickets). 764-0247.

“I'll Be Waiting”: From Around Here Productions. See 7 Thursday. 7 p.m.

Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the last several decades. Singles and couples invited. Refreshments. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a lesson. 8-10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. \$10. 822-2120.

2nd Saturday Contra Dance. Drake Meadows calls to music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. All dances taught; no partner needed. Bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. Preceded at 7:30 p.m. by a beginner lesson. 8-11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). \$10 (students, \$5). [garth.gerber@charter.net](mailto:garth.gerber@charter.net), 649-6426, 408-1829.

Peter Madcat Ruth: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse. World-renowned local harmonica wiz—Dave Brubeck praised him as one of the world's “great jazz soloists”—with a massive multi-genre repertoire of blues, jazz, folk, and rock tunes, along with several fine originals and songs by other contemporary composers. Performing as a one-man band, Madcat sings and also plays guitar, ukulele, jaw harp, kalimba, pennywhistle, and more. 8-10 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. \$8 (\$15 for 2). 665-0409.

## Policy Talks @ the Ford School



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### January 25

**4:00 PM: Ambassador Christopher R. Hill**  
Dean of the Joseph Korbel School of International Studies and former Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs at the U.S. Department of State  
(Weill Hall, Annenberg Auditorium)

**7:00 PM: Film screening of *The Diplomat***  
hosted by Ambassador Christopher R. Hill  
(Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty)

### February 1

**4:00 PM: Broderick Johnson**  
Chairperson of the White House My Brother's Keeper Task Force  
(Weill Hall, Annenberg Auditorium)

### March 9

**4:00 PM: Sister Simone Campbell, SSS**  
Executive Director of NETWORK and author of *A Nun on the Bus: How All of Us Can Create Hope, Change, and Community*  
(Weill Hall, Annenberg Auditorium)

For more information: 734-615-9691 or [fspp-events@umich.edu](mailto:fspp-events@umich.edu)

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## New exhibits this month:

**Ann Arbor Art Center**, 117 W. Liberty. *GIG: The Art of Michigan Music* (Jan. 15–30). Concert photography, gig posters, and T-shirt designs for Michigan musicians by 20 Michigan artists. Reception Jan. 15, 6–9 p.m. Mon.–Thurs. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 994–8004.

**Ann Arbor District Library**, 343 S. Fifth Ave. *New Art Prints by Michigan Artists* (Jan. 19–Feb. 25 in the Multipurpose Room). After the exhibit ends, framed works will be available to borrow from the library. *Thirst Quenchers from the Dinnerware Museum* (Jan. 19–Feb. 25 in the lower level display cases). Pouring vessels, cups, and drinking vessels from the local Dinnerware Museum's permanent collection. Mon. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Tues.–Fri. 9 a.m.–9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. noon–6 p.m. 327–4555.

**EMU Ford Gallery**, Ford Hall, E. Cross between Welch Hall and Boone Hall, Ypsilanti. *Annual Juried Student Show* (Jan. 11–Feb. 4). Reception Jan. 13, 4:30–6:30 p.m. Mon. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Tues. & Wed. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. 487–1268.

**EMU University Art Gallery**, 900 Oakwood, Ypsilanti. *Faculty Exhibition* (Jan. 11–Feb. 8). Reception Jan. 20, 4:30–6:30 p.m. Mon. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Tues. & Wed. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. 487–1268.

**Gifts of Art (U-M Hospitals)**. *Belle Kogan* (Jan. 11–Dec. 11 in the Cancer Center elevator alcove, level 2). Industrially produced art pottery designed by the late

artist, the first woman to become a prominent industrial designer in the U.S. Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–5 p.m. 936–ARTS.

**Kerrytown Concert House**, 415 N. Fourth Ave. *Meditations* (Jan. 6–31). Drawings by local artist Astrid Monique Müller-Karger that reference petrographic and pictographic forms. Mon.–Fri. 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m., by appointment, and during evening concerts. 769–2999.

**U-M Hatcher Graduate Library**, room 100 (enter from the Diag). *Shakespeare on Page and Stage* (Jan. 11–Apr. 27 in the Audubon Room). Exhibit that explores versions of Shakespeare's plays as they were edited for publication or interpreted for the stage, including the Second Folio (1632) as well as a selection of landmark editions by scholars such as John Dryden, Nicholas Rowe, Alexander Pope, Samuel Johnson, and Edmond Malone. For hours, see lib.umich.edu/hatcher-graduate-library. 936–2311. *From Christianity to Islam: Egypt Between Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages* (Jan. 18–May 4 in the 7th floor exhibit space). Papyrus from the U-M Papyrology Collection that illustrate the government, society, and religious culture of Egypt during its transition from Byzantine Christian to Arab Islamic rule. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. 764–9369. *Recent Acquisitions and Hidden Treasures from the Clark Library's Map Collection* (Jan. 21–Mar. 14 in the 2nd Floor Clark Library). Highlights include Noll's incredibly detailed 1748 map of Rome, an 1881 astral lantern, and a restored edition of Taylor & Skinner's Maps of the Roads of Ireland (1777). For hours, see lib.umich.edu/hatcher-graduate-library. 647–0646.

**U-M Institute for the Humanities Gallery**, 202 S. Thayer St. *The Scent of a Beaver* (Jan. 21–Feb. 26).

Sculptural installation by Kent Monkman inspired by Fragonard's rococo painting *The Swing*. In Monkman's version, the artist's alter ego, Miss Chief Eagle Testickle, dangles on a swing between a French and English general, a metaphor for the power relationships that have shaped North America. *Converging Paths: The Photography of Pawel Figurski* (Jan. 21–Feb. 26 in the Common Room). Street photography by this Polish artist. Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. 936–3518.

**U-M Museum of Art (UMMA)**, 525 S. State. *Alvin Lucier: I am sitting in a room* (Jan. 23–May 22). Sound installation by renowned composer Lucier in which a recording is re-recorded and played over itself multiple times until the words become unintelligible. *In Focus: Henri Cartier-Bresson* (Jan. 26–May 8). Cartier-Bresson's 1951 photo *Île de la Cité*, a landscape of the island in the Seine that is home to Notre Dame and Sainte-Chapelle. Tues.–Sat. 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 763–UMMA.

**U-M Residential College Art Gallery**, 701 East University. *Wearing the Body* (Jan. 6–Feb. 12). Prints and works on paper by U-M lecturer Ana Fernandez that focus on the interaction amongst the female body, fashion, and notions of femininity. Reception Jan. 8, 4–6 p.m. Lecture Jan. 29, 4 p.m. (see Events listing). Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. 762–0032.

**WSG Gallery**, 306 S. Main. *16+16* (Jan. 5–Feb. 14). Works by the gallery's 16 members and their invited guests. The wide range of media includes paintings, metal, photography, ceramics, glass, jewelry, cards, books, and more. Reception Jan. 9, 7 p.m. Tues.–Thurs. noon–9 p.m., Fri. & Sat. noon–5 p.m. 761–2287.

“Company”: Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 7 Thursday, 8 p.m.

Matthew Broussard: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 7 Thursday, 8 & 10:30 p.m.

“Pointless Improv”: Pointless Brewery & Theatre. See 1 Friday, 8 & 10:30 p.m.

## 10 SUNDAY

★“Taste of HDS: Messing Around with Math”: Hebrew Day School. All preschoolers and their families invited for a fun program of hands-on math activities led by HDS teacher Janice Lieberman. Healthy snack provided. 10–11 a.m., HDS kindergarten classroom, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–4633.

★“Restoring the Great Lakes”: First Congregational Church. U-M Water Center director Jennifer Read discusses the current state of water resources and research. 11:10 a.m.–noon, First Congregational Church, 608 E. William. Free. 662–1679.

★“Comparative Cupping”: Zingerman's Coffee Company. Zingerman's Coffee staff offer taste samples of coffees from around the world using the tools and techniques of professional tasters. 1–3 p.m., Zingerman's Coffee Company, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$20. 929–6060.

★“Dancing Babies”: Ann Arbor District Library. Robinsons for Kids director Robin Robinson presents a program of music and movement for babies through 5-year-olds, accompanied by an adult. 1–1:40 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–8301.

★“Young Rembrandts: Power of Drawing”: Ann Arbor District Library. Every Sat. beginning Jan. 10. All kids in grades 1–5 invited to explore pastel, colored pencil, and marker techniques while learning drawing skills that lay the foundation for visual arts, including illustration, design, fine art composition, and cartooning. Participants can attend as many sessions as they like. 1–2:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.

★“Engaging with Art”: UMMA. Jan. 10, 17, 24, & 31. Docents lead tours of the UMMA collection, with themes based on their own interests. 1–2 p.m. UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.

★“Animal Care Education”: Ann Arbor District Library. Humane Society of Huron Valley staff discuss what to do if you find an injured wild animal, and they explain the Humane Society's role in caring for and rescuing wildlife. 2–3:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–8301.

★“Computer Skills”: Ann Arbor District Library. Jan. 10, 17, 24, & 31. GameStart staff present hands-on introductions to various computer skills for kids in grades 3–8. Jan. 10: “Minecraft Programming Basics.” Learn the fundamentals of programming Minecraft using the Python programming language. Jan. 17: “Roblox: Medieval Level Design.” Learn how to make your own world using Roblox Studio editor. Jan. 24: “Minecraft Blockly.” Learn the fundamentals of programming Minecraft. Jan. 31: “Pokemon Unity.” Learn about the underlying struc-

ture and strategies of Pokemon and make a new version using Unity software. 2–3:30 p.m., AADL training center, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.

★MLK Unity March: Second Baptist Church. All invited to join a march from the Washtenaw County Courthouse to the Second Baptist Church on Red Oak. 2 p.m., meet at the Courthouse (Main at Huron) or get transportation from the church following the 10:45 a.m. service. Free. 663–9369.

Contact Improv. Jan. 10, 17, & 31. All invited to try this interactive, free-form dance style that involves a rolling point of contact between two or more people through which dancers give and share weight. It is somewhere between tango, modern dance, aikido, wrestling, gymnastics, and none of the above, and usually takes place without music. People do contact improv in any combination of genders, and there are no steps. No partner required; beginners welcome. Followed by discussion and socializing. 2–4 p.m., SOMA, 218 N. Fourth Ave., ste. 204. \$5–\$10 sliding scale based on ability to pay. 604–4416.

★“Ever Blooming Orchids for Under Lights and the Windowsill”: Ann Arbor Orchid Society. Talk by Chicago orchid grower Leo Schordje. Also, a sale of orchids and supplies. 2–5 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. AnnArborOrchids@aol.com

★“Come as You Are: Art of the 1990s”: UMMA. Jan. 10 & 31. Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of 90s artwork that explores debates over identity politics, the digital revolution, and globalization. 2–3 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.

“Company”: Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 7 Thursday, 2 p.m.

★Kola Owolabi: U-M School of Music. This U-M organ professor performs a Baroque program of works by Weckmann, Buxtehude, Rossi, Boyvin, and Bach. 4 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Blanche Anderson Moore Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.

Jamie Barton: University Musical Society. This Georgia-born mezzo-soprano, winner of the 2013 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition, performs works by Joaquin Turina, Ernest Chausson, Franz Schubert, Antonin Dvorak, and Sergei Rachmaninoff. With pianist Martin Katz. 4 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets \$35–\$50 in advance at tickets.ums.org, the Michigan League, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538, (800) 221–1229.

★Rainbow Book Club. All invited to join a discussion of *Blood, Marriage, Wine, and Glitter*, S. Bear Bergman's memoir in essays that explore nontraditional queer families. 4:30–6 p.m., Jim Toy Community Center, 325 Braun Ct. Free. lorrelsu@hotmail.com

“Ann Arbor (Mostly) Acoustic Jam”: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Jan. 10 & 24. All singers, acoustic & electric guitarists, bassists, mandolinists, banjoists, ukulele players, percussionists, keyboardists, and other musicians invited to join organizer Michael Niemi to play folk, rock, country, or original tunes. Bring a music stand and copies of sheet music. Listeners welcome. 7–9 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$5 (members, free). Preregistration required for

musicians at [meetup.com/Ann-Arbor-Acoustic-Jam](http://meetup.com/Ann-Arbor-Acoustic-Jam). 794–6250.

“The Open Stage”: Pointless Brewery & Theatre. See 3 Sunday, 7 p.m.

★“Same-Sex Marriage and the Constitution”: Beth Israel Congregation. Talk by U-M law professor Richard Primus, who was a law clerk for Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. 7:45–9:15 p.m., Beth Israel Congregation, 2000 Washtenaw. Free. 665–9897.

Ballroom Dance Club at the U-M. Every Sun. beginning Jan. 10. Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. 8–10 p.m., Michigan Union Rogel Ballroom (Jan. 10, 17, & 24) & Michigan League Ballroom (Jan. 31). \$5 (\$10 includes lessons). 763–6984.

## 11 MONDAY

★Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus. Every Mon., Jan. 11–Apr. 11. All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. David Peramle directs. 10–11:30 a.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh. Free to visitors (\$125 per semester dues for those who join). 665–9271.

★“Hanky-Panky in the Drug Industry: How and Why Drug Companies Go Ethically South”: U-M Residential College. Talk by local psychologist and RC clinical psychology lecturer Hank Greenspan. 4 p.m., Keene Theater, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 763–0176.

★“Data Mining: The Critique of Artificial Reason, 1963–2005”: U-M Science, Technology, & Society Program. Columbia University history of science and technology professor Matthew Jones discusses the transformation of data mining from disparaged, dubious sort of statistical work—“fishing” or “dredging”—to become what its practitioners proclaim to be an utterly transformative technology. 4–5:30 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 763–2066.

★“Memoir Writing: Turning Your Life into Art (or Is It the Other Way Around?)”: Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by Huron High School English teacher R.J. Fox, author of *Love & Vodka: My Surreal Adventures in Ukraine*. For adults and teens in grade 6 & up. 6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.

★“What is a Co-op?: Building Resilient Communities”: Ann Arbor District Library/People's Food Co-op. Panel discussion with People's Food Co-op outreach & education coordinator David Hall and marketing director Bridget O'Brien. 7–8:30 p.m., AADL 4th-floor meeting room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.

★“Inside Graduate Admissions”: Literati Bookstore. U-M higher education professor Julie Posselt and U-M Center for the Education of Women director Gloria Thomas discuss Posselt's new book that details the admissions process from a decision maker's point of view. Signing. 7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585–5567.

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—Martin Luther King, Jr.

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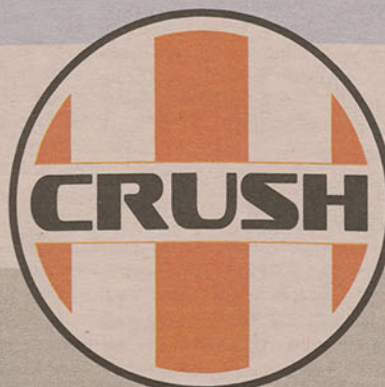
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## ACHIEVEMENTS

congratulations to our fall WSSL champions & runners-up

- ⊖ champions:  
U14PWG U19HSG U10JOB  
U11TBB U13SPB
- ⊖ runners-up:  
U08ERG U09SSG U11JOG  
U19PWG U11JCB



★“Imagery and Jacquard: Selfies and Others”: Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild. EMU apparel, textiles, and merchandizing professor Cathryn Amidei discusses Jacquard-type looms that, used with Photo-shop, have enabled artists to explore detailed imagery in weavings. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by socializing. 7 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. annarborfiberarts@gmail.com

★“The Book of Unknown Americans: A Novel”: Ann Arbor District Library. AADL staff lead a discussion of Cristina Henriquez’s critically acclaimed 2014 novel, the 2016 Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads selection. It’s the story of a 15-year-old girl whose family must leave their life in Mexico and emigrate to Delaware so she can receive medical care. When she falls in love with their Panamanian American neighbor’s son, their love has the potential to devastate everyone involved. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-4555.

★“What Treasures I Found at AAPEX”: Ann Arbor Stamp Club. Club members do a show-and-tell on goodies found at last fall’s stamp show. Also, a mini-auction of stamps. 7:30 p.m., Salvation Army, 100 Arbana (park & enter at the rear of the building). Free admission. 761-5859.

★Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society. All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by viol teacher and early music specialist Janet Cannon. Music provided; bring your own music stand. 7:30-9 p.m., St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors (\$35 annual dues for those who join). 274-9463.

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra: University Musical Society. Founded in 1946, this London-based orchestra last performed in Hill Auditorium more than 20 years ago. Directed by Grammy-winning violinist (and tonight’s soloist) Pinchas Zukerman, they perform a program highlighted by Edward Elgar’s *Enigma Variations*, a set of 14 variations on a theme, with each variation functioning as a musical sketch of one of Elgar’s acquaintances. The program also includes Beethoven’s *Egmont Overture* and Violin Concerto in D major. 7:30 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets \$16-\$90 in advance at tickets.ums.org, the Michigan League, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538, (800) 221-1229.

## 12 TUESDAY

“Taxing Beards and Breasts, Wigs and Windows: Weird Taxes of the Past and Their Lessons for Tax Policy Today”: U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series. Talk by U-M Business School business economics and public policy professor Joel Slemrod. Fifth in a series of 9 monthly lectures. 10-11:30 a.m., Rave Cinema, 4100 Carpenter. \$65 (members, \$45) for the 9-lecture series. Memberships are \$20 a year. \$10 per lecture for members. 998-9351.

★“The Sweet Truth about Your Sweet Tooth”: Ann Arbor District Library/People’s Food Co-op. Talk by local raw foods advocate Ellen Livingston. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-4555.

★“A 1000-mile Great Lakes Island Adventure”: Huron Valley Sierra Club Book Club. All invited to discuss Loreen Niewenhuis’s book about her treks of Great Lakes shorelines. 7:30 p.m., Nicola’s Books, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971-1157.

★Timothy McAllister & Randall Hawes: U-M School of Music. U-M saxophone professor McAllister and bass trombonist Hawes are joined by pianist Kathryn Goodson in a program highlighted by the Michigan premiere of Jim Stephenson’s *Mahogany Moods*, a work commissioned by the trio. The program also includes works by Daniel Schnyder, David Biedenbender, Chris Fisher-Lochhead, Jennifer Higdon, Ellen Rowe, William Albright, and John Corigliano. 8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

## 13 WEDNESDAY

★“Rising from the Rubble: Creating the Museum of the History of Polish Jews”: U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Lecture by POLIN Museum (Warsaw) chief curator Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett. 5:30-6:45 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 763-9047.

★“Black Lives Matter”: U-M Hatcher Grad Library/U-M MLK Symposium. Lecture by Alicia Garza, cocreator of the viral #BlackLivesMatter Twitter hashtag and subsequent activist movement, initially sparked by outrage over the 2013 acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin. 6-8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Free. 764-7522.

★“Death on Your Driveway”: Pittsfield Union Grange. Local chemical environmental issues ex-



# blues

## John Primer

Chicago blues  
traditionalist

When I moved to Chicago in the early 1980s, it was in part the blues that drew me there. The first generation of Southern migrants who created urban blues were still at it, and I got to hear titanic, wrenching solos from Muddy "Mississippi" Waters at Navy Pier with a horde of other reverent young people. I frequented the B.L.U.E.S. club on Lincoln Ave. on the North Side and, when feeling adventurous, Theresa's on E. 43rd on the South Side, where the warmth in the house gave the lie to the chilly streets outside. It's likely that I heard guitarist John Primer at this time, probably more than once, for he played in the house band at Theresa's and then in the bands of Waters and Willie Dixon.

Primer was born in Mississippi in 1945 and came to Chicago in the early 1960s, making him part of the last wave of the Great Migration. In the late 1980s he performed, at the Ark among other places, as one of Magic Slim's Teardrops, and emerged with his own band. He's released about a dozen albums that are marked by the styles of his mentors, but his concerts don't have the feel of a blues museum. Primer does some covers, usually putting his own stamp on them, but most of his material is original.

He's not extraordinary either as a vocalist or a guitarist, although he's solid as both and has an attractive way of building a guitar solo out of clean, economical phrases. What's compelling about Primer's music is how it fills out the traditional lyric themes of Chicago blues—love, sex, poverty, the Migration itself—in unusual ways that have the



feel of growing from the tradition's roots. His blues aren't cut down to radio length but stretch out for six or seven minutes and tell a story or approach the subject from a variety of perspectives.

Some are downright novel—Primer's "1839 Blues" is a story of separation told in the time of slavery—but in the words of WCBN *Nothin' but the Blues* DJ Jerry Mack, Primer has stayed "true to the tradition of South Side Chicago blues." Now seventy, he may be the last musician who absorbed that tradition firsthand and has carried it forward, and his show might be the perfect place to reflect on the nature of this thing called Chicago blues. Primer comes to the Ark on Sunday, January 17 (see Nightspots).

—James M. Manheim

pert Dave Wilson discusses the hazards of coal tar driveway sealer and offers suggestions for safer alternatives. The program begins with a potluck (bring a dish to pass). 6:30 p.m., *Pittsfield Grange*, 3337 Ann Arbor—Saline Rd. Free. 769-1052.

★**Seed Cleaning and Exchange: Wild Ones.** All invited to bring seeds to clean and exchange. Matthaei native plant specialist Mike Kost demonstrates how to clean and prepare native seeds using widely available tools. Seeds available to take home. 6:45 p.m., *U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens*, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free; metered parking. 604-4674.

★**Tumbao Bravo: Ann Arbor District Library.** Cuban jazz standards and originals by this local quintet led by saxophonist and flutist Paul VomHagen and percussionist Alberto Nacif whose repertoire includes mambos, cha chas, rhumba, boleros, and danzon. Also, U-M American Culture professor Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes previews films in "The Latino Americans: 100 Years of History," a series of 6 films that opens at the AADL on Jan. 18 (see Films listing) and runs into April. 7-8 p.m., *AADL multipurpose room* (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

★**"Acupressure Self-Massage": Ann Arbor District Library/People's Food Co-op.** Talk by acupressure and Chinese medicine practitioner Joel Robbins. 7-8:30 p.m., *AADL secret lab* (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

★**"Sex as We Age: The Challenges and Joys": Jewish Community Center.** Talk by local social worker and sex therapist Amy Advay. 7-8:30 p.m., *JCC*, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. Preregistration required to Leah Zaas at leahz@jfsannarbor.com. 769-0209.

★**"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** All invited to read and discuss their poetry or short stories. Bring about 6 copies of your work to share. 7-9 p.m., *Crazy Wisdom*, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757.

★**History Readers Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** EMU history professor emeritus Jiu-Hwa Upshur leads a discussion of *On Saudi Arabia*, Karen Elliott House's book about life in the shrouded

kingdom, based on her previous work as a reporter and publisher of *The Wall Street Journal*. 7:30 p.m., *Motte & Bailey*, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 369-2499.

★**"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 6 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

## 14 THURSDAY

★**"Sensation Stations": Ann Arbor District Library.** All toddlers ages 18 months-3 years invited to drop in to engage their senses by scooping, pouring, squeezing, and shaking a variety of materials. 10:30-11:30 a.m., *AADL Malletts Creek Branch*, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-8301.

★**"The Aura of Atrocity: The Spanish Civil War and the Iconography of Affliction": U-M Romance Languages & Literatures.** Talk by University of Valencia film studies professor Vicente Sanchez-Biosca. 4-6 p.m., *Hatcher Grad Library Gallery*, enter from the Diag Free. 764-5344.

★**"Scott Hocking: Metamorphosis": U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Speaker Series.** Talk by this Detroit installation artist who often uses found materials and abandoned locations to create works that explore transformation, ephemerality, chance, and the discovery of beauty in the cycles of nature. 5:10 p.m., *Michigan Theater*. Free. 668-8463.

★**Maggie Shipstead & Jennifer DuBois: U-M Zell Visiting Writers Series.** Readings by these two heralded debut novelists. Shipstead's bestselling *Seating Arrangements*, about tensions surrounding an upscale wedding, won the Dylan Thomas Prize and the L.A. Times Book Prize for First Fiction. DuBois's *A Partial History of Lost Causes*, about a long-lost letter that links disparate characters, won the California Book Award for First Fiction and was a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award. Shipstead and DuBois also participate in a Q&A at 2 p.m. today in the Hopwood Room (1176 Angell Hall). Signing. 5:30 p.m., *UMMA Auditorium*, 525 S. State. Free. aicadm@umich.edu, 764-6330.

★**"Puffy Paint Friendship Bracelets": Ann Arbor District Library.** Craft activity for adults and teens

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## OPEN HOUSE FAMILY NIGHT

January 22, 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

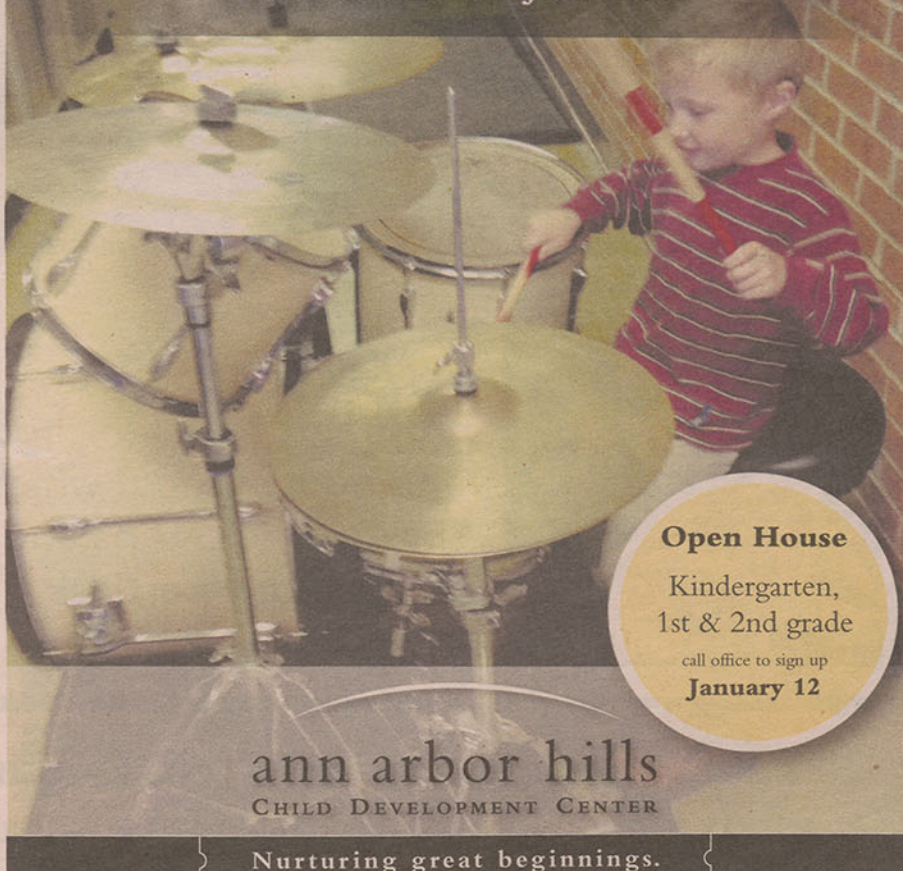
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in grade 6 & up. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-8301.

★**"WhoWillBeNext: A Discussion on the Impact of Race and Ethnicity on Elections"**: U-M Department of Afroamerican and African Studies/U-M MLK Symposium. Panel discussion with U-M faculty and students and community activists. 7-9 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. Free, but donations accepted. 764-5517.

★**"Story Night"**: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild members present a program of old tales and personal stories for grownups. 7-9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free; donations accepted. 665-2757.

**Admiral Launch Duo: Kerrytown Concert House.** This adventurous duo of University of Massachusetts saxophone professor **Jonathan Hulting-Cohen** and award-winning harpist **Jennifer Ellis**, both U-M grads, performs selections from several works, including Camille Saint-Saëns' *Fantaisie for Violin and Harp*, Ida Gotkovsky's *Eolienne*, and Yusef Lateef's *Romance for Harp and Soprano Saxophone*. They also perform selections from several works written for them, including Patrick O'Malley's *Thaumaturgy*, Christine Hedden's *Amhrain na Cáisc*, Diana Sussman's ... *nice box!*, Stephen Rush's *Whirlwind*, Dylan Arthur Baker's *Night Wanderings*, and Natalie Moller's *Starshine and Moonfall*. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10-\$25 (students, \$5). Reservations recommended. [kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://kerrytownconcerthouse.com), 769-2999.

**Keith Alberstadt: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** Jan. 14-16. A contributing writer to SNL's "Weekend Update," *National Lampoon*, and several online magazines, Alberstadt is known for his clever, sharply perceptive observational humor and off-handed charm. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$10 (Thurs.) & \$13 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$12 (Thurs.) & \$15 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

## 15 FRIDAY

★**"India Before the Himalayas: Dinosaurs, Decan Traps, and Mass Extinction"**: U-M Center for South Asian Studies. Lecture by U-M Museum of Paleontology curator Jeffrey Wilson. 4-6 p.m., 1636 SSWB/International Institute, 1080 South University. Free. 615-4059.

★**"An Introduction to Contemporary Chinese Folk Dance"**: U-M Confucius Institute. Talk by Northeast Normal University (Changchun, China) dance performance lecturer Jin Ni, who also offers a free workshop series in contemporary Chinese folk dance beginning Jan. 24 (see [confucius.umich.edu](http://confucius.umich.edu) for details). 4 p.m., location TBA. Free. 764-8888.

★**"Fix-It Friday": Maker Works.** All invited to bring anything that needs fixing—chairs, sweaters, radios, and more. Maker Works members and staff will be on hand to help fix things and offer advice. Repairs not guaranteed. 4-6 p.m., Maker Works, 3765 Plaza Dr. (off Airport Blvd. north of Ellsworth). Free. 222-4911.

★**"Friends and Music at Calvary"**: Calvary Presbyterian Church. All adults and teens with special needs invited for singing, dancing, and activities. Caregivers welcome. Food. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2727 Fernwood. Free. Preregistration requested. [specialneeds@calvarya2.com](mailto:specialneeds@calvarya2.com), 971-3121.

**St. Vladimir's Annual Nativity Ball: St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church.** Dinner and dancing to music related to this year's theme, "Movies of the Past 120 Years." Games, raffle, and a cash bar. Attendees encouraged to dress as a favorite movie character. Preceded at 6 p.m. by a cocktail hour. 7 p.m., St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 3109 Scio Church Rd. Tickets \$60 (dance only, \$20) in advance by Jan. 3. 272-3826.

★**"The Typewriter Revolution"**: Literati Bookstore. Typewriter magazine *ETCetera* editor **Richard Polt** and representatives from the local hand-typed literary journal *Harlequin Creature* discuss Polt's new book about the resurgent popularity of typewriters and how to choose, care for, and use one. Signing. 7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

**"FutureStars 2016": Pioneer High School.** Jan. 15, 16, & 23 (different programs). AAPS high school students perform 4 different talent shows. The judges and the audience determine the winners, who compete in the Jan. 23 finale. This is a very popular show. Note: The 9:30 p.m. shows are open only to students. Tonight: "Gone But Not Forgotten" (7 p.m.) & "Get Your Groove On" (9:30 p.m.). 7 & 9:30 p.m. (Jan. 15 & 16) & 7:30 p.m. (Jan. 23), PHS Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at Main. Tickets \$10 on Jan. 16 & 17; \$15 (students, seniors age 65 & over, \$10) on Jan. 23 in advance at [showtix4u.com](http://showtix4u.com) and at the door. [ptguild.org](http://ptguild.org), 994-2191.

★**University Lowbrow Astronomers.** U-M astronomy research professor Pat Seitzer and Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum director Mel Drumm discuss



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"The Fate of the Old Angell Hall Telescopes," and Warren Astronomical Society member Ken Bertin discusses "Galileo Galilei: The Giant Whose Shoulders Both Newton and Einstein Mentioned They Stood Upon." 7:30-9:30 p.m., G115 Angell Hall. Free. 747-6585.

**★Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society.** Jan. 15 & 29. All invited to peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, short astronomy presentations by club members. 8-10 p.m., 5th floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (enter through Haven Hall on the Diag side of the building). Free. 764-3440.

**"It's Our 70s Show": Out Loud Chorus.** Jan. 15 & 16. Paul Haebig directs this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in a program of 70s music, including songs by Cat Stevens, the Bee Gees, Donna Summer, Carole King, Barry Manilow, Kiki Dee, Barbra Streisand, Elton John, and Stevie Wonder. With accompaniment by an ensemble that includes pianist Annie Jeng, bassist Edie Herrold, drummer Tamara Perkuhn, and guest guitarist Collette Jacobsen. 8 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. \$15 (students, \$12; unemployed people & kids under 4, free) in advance at [olonline.org](http://olonline.org) & Common Language Books and from Out Loud members, \$18 at the door. 265-0740.

**64th Annual Faculty and Guest Artist Choreography Concert: EMU Dance Program.** Jan. 15-17. EMU dance students perform an eclectic mix of genres from ballet to hip-hop by faculty and guest choreographers, including Boy Friday (NYC) artistic director Erik Abbott-Main, Youth Ballet Chelsea artistic director Wendi DuBois, Artlab J (Detroit) artistic director Joori Jung, Pure Existence Dance Company founder Jodie Randolph, People Dancing artistic director Christina Sears-Etter, EMU dance professors Sherry Jerome and Phil Simmons, and EMU dance student Megan Schepelman. Abbott-Main presents a vintage dream ballet inspired by the cover of the Supremes' *Number Ones* album, and DuBois presents *mai multi stari de spirit*, a many-mooded contemporary ballet that offers humorous commentary on various dance styles, and *Daedalian*, a classical ballet trio with a Rachmaninoff score. Jung presents her modern dance piece inspired by Edward Hopper's *A Woman in the Sun*, Randolph presents her modern dance *The Possibility*, and Sears-Etter presents *The Hidden Realm*, a theatrical piece that explores various notions of angels as messengers of the divine. Jerome presents her original choreography for the Act II pas de deux from Prokofiev's *Cinderella*, Simmons presents "In These Shoes?" from the musical *Kinky Boots*, and Schepelman presents her *Allurement(o)t*, a piece about the cycle of temptation. 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), EMU Quirk Theater, Ford St. (off Lowell from Huron River Dr.), Ypsilanti. Tickets \$10 (students with ID, \$8) in advance at [emutix.com](http://emutix.com) and at the door. 487-2282.

**"Avenue Q": Dexter Community Players.** Jan. 15-17, 22, & 23. Jason Smith directs local actors in Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx's 2003 Tony-winning Sesame Street-inspired musical about a group of young friends in outer borough NYC struggling to find jobs, dates, and their ever-elusive purpose in life. The characters are portrayed by actors and puppets operated by onstage actors. *New York Times* theater critic Ben Brantley describes its score as "sweetly satiric homages to the instructional ditties of Sesame Street." Cast: Leo Snow, Jamie Lynn Buechele, Erik Wright-Olsen, Antonio Argiero, Jared Hoffert, Mary Rumman, Neil Clennan, Amanda Burch, Katrina Chizek, Eric Redfern, Chris Bryant, Stacey Smith, and Keshia Oliver. 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Copeland Auditorium, 7714 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Tickets \$16 in advance at [dcp.yapsody.com](http://dcp.yapsody.com); \$20 at the door. [info@dextercommunityplayers.com](mailto:info@dextercommunityplayers.com). 726-0355.

**"Pointless Improv": Pointless Brewery & Theatre.** See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

**Keith Alberstadt: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 14 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

## 16 SATURDAY

**6th Annual Ann Arbor City Dodgeball Tournament: Skyline High School Crew Team Fundraiser.** All adults and kids in 6th grade and above invited to form co-ed teams of 7-10 players to compete in round-robin and elimination tournaments. Prizes for top teams in each of 3 divisions (middle school, high school, and open adult), and awards for best costume in each division. Food & beverage concessions. 8-10 a.m. (middle school), 10:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. (high school), & 2:30-5:30 p.m. (adult), Skyline, 2552 N. Maple Rd. \$100 per team. Preregistration for teams (limited to 20 middle school, 30 high school, & adult teams) required by 6 p.m. on Jan. 15 at [annarbordodgeball.com](http://annarbordodgeball.com). 216-0357.

**"Pop-Up Makerspace: Build a Ball, Make a Ramp": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.** Jan. 16-

18. All invited for hands-on engineering activities. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Sat. & Mon.) & noon-4 p.m. (Sun.), AA-HOM, 220 E. Ann. \$12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995-5439.

**★Grange Junior Makers: Pittsfield Grange.** Kids, accompanied by a participating adult, invited to work on electronics, robotics, and woodworking projects TBA. 10 a.m.-noon, Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). Free. 926-5079.

**★Death Café.** All invited to join a frank conversation about death led by participants. Hosted by After Death Home Care founder Merilynne Rush. Tea & cake served. 10 a.m.-noon, Crazy Wisdom Tearoom, 114 S. Main. Free. 395-9660.

**★"Recycled Robots": Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department.** All invited to make a robotic figure using recycled materials. Followed by guided tours of the city's recycling and trash disposal center; closed-toe shoes and long pants required for the tour. 10 a.m.-noon, Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. Preregistration required for groups of 5 or more. 369-9272.

**"Little Peeps PlayGround": Pointless Brewery & Theatre.** See 2 Saturday. 10:30 a.m.

**"Les Pêcheurs de Perles (The Pearl Fishers)": Metropolitan Opera (Fathom Events).** Live broadcast (Jan. 16) and rebroadcast (Jan. 20) of the Met's production of Bizet's opera about a beautiful Hindu priestess who's pursued by rival pearl divers competing for her hand. The opera explores themes of love, betrayal, and vengeance and is best known for the lilt duet "Au fond du temple saint." This production includes a vivid undersea set. 12:55 p.m. (Jan. 16) & 6:30 p.m. (Jan. 20), Quality 16 (3686 Jackson) & Rave (4100 Carpenter). Tickets \$18-\$21 (discounts for seniors & children) in advance at [fathomevents.com](http://fathomevents.com). 623-7469 (Quality 16) & 973-8424 (Rave).

**"Splash Day": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** A family-oriented afternoon of pool games and contests. Prizes. 1:30-4:30 p.m., Mack Indoor Pool, 715 Brooks. \$5 (youth age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & older, \$4). 794-6234.

**★"An Interactive Guide to the Principles of Rock Gardening": North American Rock Garden Society.** Experienced rock gardeners give a presentation, with audience participation, on plant selection, planting techniques, rock garden design for our climate, and other topics. 1:30-3 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free; metered parking. [reznicek@umich.edu](mailto:reznicek@umich.edu)

**★"Amazing Tangram Art": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades K-5 invited to use colored paper cutouts to try the ancient Chinese art of combining flat shapes to make images of animals and other objects. 2-3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

**★"Correspondence Club": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to decorate a card, then write a note to a friend or loved one on it and mail it. Materials (including stamps) provided. 3-4 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

**"Parents' Night Out: Science Investigations": Leslie Science and Nature Center.** Parents invited to leave their kids ages 6-12 for a fun-filled program of scientific observation and experiment. Pizza dinner and an evening snack. 5-10 p.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. \$30 (members, \$25) per child. Preregistration required by Jan. 11. 997-1533.

**32nd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Dinner Ball: National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women.** Dinner followed by dancing to music spun by a DJ. Evening attire. Also, a keynote address by Detroit attorney Jeffrey Collins, author of *Do the Right Thing: Make Ethics Your Brand*. Proceeds benefit a NANBPW scholarship fund and community service projects. 6-11 p.m., Sheraton Hotel, 3200 Boardwalk. Tickets \$60 in advance at Blackstone Bookstore (214 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti) and at [aananbpwc.org](http://aananbpwc.org). 485-8889.

**"FutureStars 2016": Pioneer High School.** See 15 Friday. Tonight: "Guilty Pleasures" (7 p.m.) & "MyTunes NOW" (9:30 p.m.).

**International Folk Dancing: Ann Arbor Folkdancers.** Dancing to recorded music. No partner needed; beginners welcome. The program begins with a lesson. 7-10 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver. \$5 (students, \$3). 709-8748.

**★Bette Adriaanse: Literati Bookstore.** This London-based writer reads from *Rus Like Everyone Else*, her debut novel, told from the omniscient perspective of a postal worker, about the lonely inhabitants of a neighborhood, from the eponymous Rus (a young man who has to get an office job when all his money is stolen by a Russian submarine captain) to a woman who compulsively steals hand creams to an immigrant delivery man trying to make a name for himself. "A blend of *Rear Window* and *Under Milk Wood*... elegant and tantalizing," says poet George



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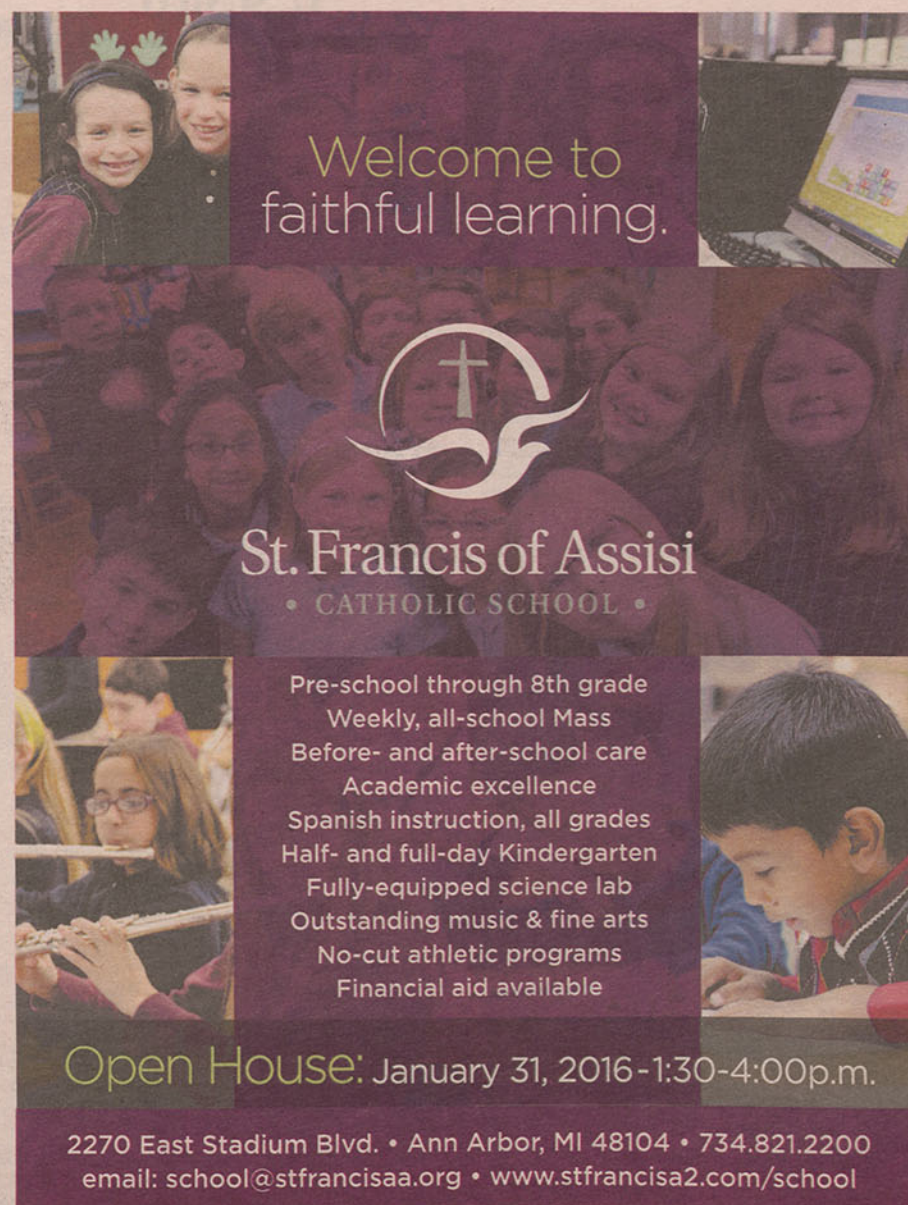
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**3rd Saturday Contra Dance:** Pittsfield Union Grange. Peter Baker and Martha vander Kolk call to live music by Debbie Jackson and Brad Battey. No partner needed; beginners welcome. Bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. Preceded by a lesson at 7:30 p.m. 8-11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). \$10 (Grange members, \$7; students, \$5). 417-0567.

**Annual Collage Concert:** U-M School of Music. An hour of nonstop music in a wide range of contrasting styles. Classical, jazz, big band, vocal, and pop ensembles and soloists segue rapidly from one idiom to the next. Performers are U-M music students. One of the music school's most popular events. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets \$22 & \$28 (students with ID, \$12), in advance at tickets.music.umich.edu, the Michigan League Ticket Office, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538.

**"Mozart Birthday Bash":** Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. AASO music director Arie Lipsky conducts the orchestra and guest musicians in a program celebrating Mozart's 260th birthday. The program features a semi-staged concert version of Mozart's comic opera *The Abduction from the Seraglio*. The work is a Singspiel, or a set of sparkling, Turkish-flavored arias stitched together with spoken dialogue. Mozart wrote this ebullient, delightfully charming music at the happiest time in his short life, while engaged to marry his sweetie Konstanze, which he did 3 weeks after the opera's premiere. With the local Vocal Arts Ensemble and several soloists, including sopranos Jeanette Vecchione and Suzanne Rigden, tenors Paul Appleby and Tim Culver, bass John Shuffie, and bass-baritone Stephen West. 8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$15-\$65 in advance at the AASO office (220 E. Huron, ste. 470), at a2so.com, and at the door. 994-4801.

**"It's Our 70s Show":** Out Loud Chorus. See 15 Friday. 8 p.m.

**64th Annual Faculty and Guest Artist Choreography Concert:** EMU Dance Program. See 15 Friday. 8 p.m.

**"Avenue Q":** Dexter Community Players. See 15 Friday. 8 p.m.

**Keith Alberstadt:** Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 14 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

**"Pointless Improv":** Pointless Brewery & Theatre. See 1 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

## 17 SUNDAY

**"Just Babies!":** Ann Arbor District Library. Local early childhood educator Gari Stein, director of Music for Little Folks, presents a program of music, rhyming, and touching for pre-walking babies age 3 months & older. 1-1:40 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

**"Chessastic!":** Ann Arbor District Library. All kids and adults invited to play chess. Sets provided. 1-4 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-4555.

**Shape Note Singing:** Ann Arbor Sacred Harp. All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Sacred Harp songbooks available, but singers encouraged to bring their own. 1-4 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, but donations accepted for music scholarships. 678-7549, 761-1451.

**Woodland Boardwalk Hike:** Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. Shawn Severance leads a hike through the diverse floodplain forest along Fleming Creek to look for signs of life. 2-4 p.m., Parker Mill County Park, Geddes Rd. (just east of US-23). Free. 971-6337, ext. 335.

**Family Dance:** Pittsfield Union Grange. Drake Meadow calls contras and squares to live music by Donna Baird and Brad Battey. For all kids, accompanied by an adult. Refreshments. 2-4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). \$12 per family. 769-1052.

**"Understanding Owls":** Waterloo Natural History Association. WNAH naturalists show off some live owls and discuss their habits, habitats, and survival skills. 2-3 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center lower parking lot (except as noted), Bush Rd. (west off Pierce Rd. from I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. \$2 (families, \$5). Space limited; preregistration required. \$10 annual vehicle entrance fee. 475-3170.

**"Soviet Constructivist Posters: Branding the New Order":** UMMA. Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of 1920s film posters by Soviet artists Vladimir and Georgii Stenberg, who championed utilitarian art that promoted egalitarian ideals and was easily accessible to a wide audience. 2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

**"Vistas":** Ann Arbor Concert Band. James Nissen directs this local volunteer ensemble in Kathryn Salfelder's dynamic *Cathedrals*, Robert W. Smith's

energetic *Into the Storm*, Hiroshi Hoshina's enchanting *Deux Paysages Sonores*, Robert Russell Bennett's classic *Suite of Old American Dances*, Sousa's delightful *Hands Across the Sea*, and Scott McAllister's rhapsody for clarinet *Black Dog*, with soloist Don Henig. 2 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$10 (seniors & students, \$5; kids age 11 & under, free) in advance from band members or at the door. aaband.org. 478-7515.

**The Dobbins/Krahnke/Weed Trio:** Kerrytown Concert House. This veteran local straight-ahead jazz trio of drummer Sean Dobbins, pianist Tad Weed, and bassist Kurt Krahnke is joined by veteran area jazz drummer Randy Gelispie who has performed with artists such as Dinah Washington, Dizzy Gillespie, Geri Allen, John Lee Hooker, and many others. 2 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$15-\$30 (students, \$5). Reservations recommended. kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769-2999.

**64th Annual Faculty and Guest Artist Choreography Concert:** EMU Dance Program. See 15 Friday. 2 p.m.

**"Avenue Q":** Dexter Community Players. See 15 Friday. 2 p.m.

**"The Color of Water: James McBride and Storytelling Through Music":** U-M School of Music/U-M MLK Symposium. Performance by tenor saxophonist and composer McBride, who won a National Book Award for his 2013 novel *The Good Lord Bird*. Today he performs with his jazz band. The program begins with performances by 3 music students and an interview of McBride by U-M music school dean Aaron Dworkin. 2:30 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

**"Community Vinyasa Yoga":** Ann Arbor District Library. A2 Yoga instructor Raina LaGrand leads adults and teens in grade 6 & up in a session of this style of yoga that synchronizes breath and movement. 3-4:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

**"Cookbooks from A to Z":** Culinary Historians of Ann Arbor. Talk by club co-chair Joanne Nesbit. 3-5 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 794-6250.

**"Faces of Faith":** Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County. Faith leaders from 12 local congregations talk about how their journey got them to Washtenaw County and what it's like to be a religious leader here. 4-6 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 E. Liberty. \$5 suggested donation. 424-1535.

**Chamber Music Showcase:** Community Music School of Ann Arbor. Performances by student chamber music ensembles, including *The Brandenburg Project*, an ensemble of ambitious musicians age 9 and up who have a passion for Bach and his contemporaries. 5 p.m., CMS, 1289 Jewett. Free. info@aa-spa.org, 213-2000.

**"Hamlet":** National Theatre Live (University Musical Society). Broadcast of the National Theatre (London) production of Shakespeare's masterful tragedy about the tormented Prince of Denmark, whose quest to avenge his father's murder leads to the deaths of almost everyone close to him. The play remains resonant for its rich, abundant poetry and its penetrating explorations of the psychology of love and betrayal and the disparity between thought and action. Stars Benedict Cumberbatch. 7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$22 (Michigan Theater members & UMS donors & subscribers, \$18) in advance at tickets.ums.org, the Michigan League, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538, (800) 221-1229.

**"The Open Stage":** Pointless Brewery & Theatre. See 3 Sunday. 7 p.m.

## 18 MONDAY (MLK DAY)

**"Annual Children & Youth Program":** U-M MLK Symposium. Parents can drop off kids in grades K-12 for a day of stories, discussions, skits, musical performances, and activities centered on Martin Luther King Jr. Lunch provided. Kids age 4 & under welcome if accompanied by an adult. 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., U-M Modern Languages Bldg., 812 E. Washington. Free. Preregistration recommended before Jan. 13 at sites.google.com/umich.edu/mlk/764-9470.

**"Preschool ArtStart":** Ann Arbor District Library. Craft activity for kids ages 2-5 (accompanied by an adult). Siblings welcome. 10-10:30 a.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

**Naomi Tutu:** U-M MLK Symposium. Keynote address by this international speaker and human rights activist, daughter of the famous South African social justice activist Desmond Tutu. 10 a.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 936-1055.

**Thomas Holt:** U-M Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies MLK Symposium Lecture. Lecture by this civil rights movement veteran and former

U-M African and African American studies and history professor. Noon-2 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 615-7400.

**"Commemorating African American Carillon Composers":** U-M School of Music/U-M MLK Symposium. 30-minute carillon concert by U-M carillonist Tiffany Ng. Attendees may listen outdoors on Ingalls Mall or climb Burton tower to see the bells. Noon, Burton Tower 10th floor. Free. 764-4414, 615-3204.

**"The Little Star That Could":** U-M Natural History Museum Planetarium. Audiovisual planetarium show about an average yellow star searching for a planet of its own to warm; along the way, it meets other stars and learns about the solar system. 12:30 p.m., U-M Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. \$5. 764-0478.

**MLK Day of Service:** Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division. All invited to help remove invasive shrubs from Barton Nature Area. Wear long pants and closed-toe shoes; tools and know-how provided. Snacks. Minors must be accompanied by an adult or obtain a release form in advance. 1-3 p.m., meet at Barton Nature Area parking lot, W. Huron River Dr. near Bird Rd. Free. 996-3266.

**Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra: Jewish Community Center Afternoon Delights.** Program TBA. With AASO musicians, including violinists Aaron Berofsky and Kathryn Votapek, cellist Arie Lipsky, and pianist Christopher Harding, and guest DSO violist Caroline Coade. Preceded at 1 p.m. with dessert and socializing. 1:30 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). \$10. 971-0990.

**Biakuye Percussion Group:** Ann Arbor District Library. Traditional African music and dance by this acclaimed Detroit-based ensemble of Ghanaian and African American musicians. 2-3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

**"Circle of Unity":** U-M MLK Symposium. All invited to listen to or join impromptu performances of songs and spoken word pieces inspired by Martin Luther King Jr. Also, performances by local singer-songwriter Joe Reilly and Detroit singer-guitarist Julie Beutel. 3-4 p.m., U-M Diag. Free. mlksymposium.umich.edu

**"#yourlifematters":** U-M Law School/U-M MLK Symposium. Chicago writer and lawyer Shermin Kruse discusses the sociological, psychological, and scientific reasons people may react more strongly to the death of Cecil the Lion than the ongoing killings of unarmed African Americans. 4-5:30 p.m., 1225 South Hall, 701 S. State. Free. 764-0516.

**"Dream Makers and Why They Matter":** U-M William K. McNally Memorial Lecture. Talk by veteran Washington Post reporter Wil Haygood, author of *The Butler: A Witness to History*, a bestseller about the former White House butler Eugene Allen that was made into a feature film. 5-6:30 p.m., U-M Business School Robertson Auditorium, 701 Tappan. Free. 763-5285.

**Embroiderers' Guild of America.** Stitchers of all abilities invited to work on their projects together and learn about guild activities. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by socializing. 6:45-9 p.m., Pittsfield Condominium Community Bldg., 2220 Pittsfield Blvd. Free to visitors (\$30 annual dues for those who join). 994-4385.

**"Great Lakes Review: Readings from Issue Six":** Literati Bookstore. Readings by Michigan contributors to this literary magazine, including novelist Michael Zadoorian, editor Michael Steinberg, poet Lynn Pattison, and novelist Robert James Russell. 7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

**Nicholas Petrie: Nicola's Books.** This U-M MFA grad reads from *The Drifter*, his debut novel about an Iraq and Afghanistan veteran with PTSD who, while helping his buddy's widow with some home repairs, discovers a suitcase full of cash and explosives. Signing. 7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

**"A Tribute to Martin Luther King Jr.":** U-M MLK Symposium/Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. Performances by various poets, musicians, dancers, and others TBA. Headliner is award-winning California-based spoken word artist Prentice Powell. Also, a chance to see the Martin Luther King Mobile Museum, which includes more than 2500 documents highlighting King's life. 7-9:30 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. Free. (269) 364-5576.

**"Tmma Do Me":** Association of Black Faculty Administrators and Staff/U-M MLK Symposium. Detroit actor and community organizer April Dae Rochon performs her one-woman 15-character comic drama that follows one young woman's rise out of poverty and the self-preservation mentality she both adopts and confronts along the way. 7-9 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Arthur Miller theatre, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764-3300.

**"Illustrating Botanical Beauty":** Michigan Botanical Club. Talk by local photographer and botani-



## PROGRAMS

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## 19 TUESDAY

★**"Chasing Daybreak: A Film about Mixed Race in America"**: U-M Library/U-M MLK Symposium. Screening of this 2006 documentary about 5 people who tour the U.S. in an RV, meeting with everyone from then-U.S. Senator Barack Obama to a tow truck driver named Bubba, to discuss race and diversity. Discussion follows. Noon-2 p.m., 2160 Shapiro Undergraduate Library, 919 South University. Free. 615-8610.

★**Strings Showcase**: U-M School of Music. Outstanding string students perform solo and ensemble chamber works. 3 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

★**"Finding the Gold Within"**: U-M MLK Symposium/Michigan Community Scholars Program. Screening of this documentary that follows six black men from Akron through their first years of college. Panel discussion follows. 6-9 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. (313) 805-1426.

★**Eco Book Club**: Literati Bookstore. Local poet Alison Swan leads a discussion of Jared Diamond's *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*. 7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

★**Polka Jam Session**. All accordion players and other musicians invited to play polkas and waltzes and other ethnic and old-time music. Preceded at 6 p.m. by dinner (\$5-\$8). 7-9 p.m., Milan Moose Lodge, 14484 Sanford Rd. (just north of Milan-Oakville Rd.), Milan. Free. 529-3903.

★**Peter Madcat Ruth**: Ann Arbor District Library. Rare solo performance by this local world-renowned harmonica wiz. As versatile and riveting a harmonica virtuoso as you'll ever hear, Madcat also plays guitar, high-hat, ukulele, jaw harp, penny-whistle, and pretty near anything else he can get his hands on. His repertoire blends folk, blues, jazz, world music, and rock 'n' roll. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

★**Skazat! Poetry Series at Sweetwaters**. Reading by Fire Historical and Cultural Arts Collaborative (Kalamazoo) cofounder **Denise Miller**, author of *CORE*, a recent collection of poems based on the stories of African American sharecroppers of the Great Migration. 7-8:30 p.m., Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington. Free. 994-6663.

★**"The Centennial Hybrid Electric Home"**: Huron Valley Sierra Club. Area writer and electrical engineer **Craig Toepfer** discusses Charles Kettering, an inventor whose work on electric start powertrains has served as a foundation for clean energy technology. 7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. hvq@michigan.sierraclub.org, 647-7600.

**The Moth Storyslam**: Michigan Radio. Monthly open mike storytelling competition sponsored by The Moth, the NYC-based nonprofit storytelling organization that also produces a weekly public radio show. Each month 10 storytellers are selected at random from among those who sign up to tell a 3-5 minute story on the monthly theme. January theme: "Strict." The 3 teams of judges are recruited from the audience. Monthly winners compete in a semiannual Grand Slam. Space limited, so it's smart to arrive early. 7:30-9 p.m. (doors open and sign-up begins at 6 p.m.), The Circus, 210 S. First. \$8. 764-5118.

## 20 WEDNESDAY

★**"Tiny Tot Walks"**: Leslie Science & Nature Center. All kids ages 1-3 (accompanied by a caregiver) invited for a leisurely, guided walk along LSNC trails to see what's happening in nature. 10-11 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. \$4 (members, \$3) per child. 997-1553.

★**"Taking the Place of Stalin: The Story of Late Communism"**: U-M Center for Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies Noon Lectures. Talk by Vassar College international studies professor Paulina Bren. Bring a bag lunch, if you like. Noon-1:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0351.

★**Civic Engagement: Saving American Democracy—One Community at a Time**: AAUW Ann Arbor Branch. Talk by veteran local journalist **Mary Morgan**, cofounder of *The Ann Arbor Chronicle* (2008-2014), who has recently founded the CivCity Initiative, a nonprofit that encourages participation in civic life. The program begins with lunch. 12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. \$15 (includes lunch). Reservations required by Jan. 13 via phone or email. embranden@yahoo.com, 662-4171.

★**"Scent of a Beaver"**: U-M Institute for the Humanities. Toronto multimedia artist **Kent Monkman**, a First Nations artist of Cree and Irish ancestry,



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# Baroque chamber music

## Handel, Scarlatti, & Bach

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The act of communing with ancestral musical traditions inside of a structure designed for spiritual reflection can have a positive effect on anyone who sits to listen. It doesn't matter what language you speak, or which beliefs you find most meaningful. On January 23 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, violinist Aaron Berofsky and harpsichordist Joseph Gascho will open the Academy of Early Music's first concert of the year 2016 with a set of sonatas by three composers born in 1685.

From the popular perspective, Handel and Bach virtually define Baroque music and are most commonly associated with attention-grabbing, large-scale choral works like *Messiah*. Scaled down to a more relaxed level of intimacy, the essence of their musical legacies can feel wonderfully wistful and refreshing.

The same can be said of Domenico Scarlatti, who is best remembered for having composed more than 550 sonatas, mostly for the harpsichord. Born in Naples and raised Italian, he spent much of his adult life in Madrid, writing music for the Queen of Spain. What distinguishes Scarlatti's music from that of Handel and Bach is the hauntingly beautiful influence of Andalusian deep song, born of east Mediterranean musical traditions that flourished in the south of Spain. In his own quiet way, Scarlatti tapped into the root system of flamenco music.

In celebration of the camaraderie that existed between Scarlatti and Handel, and to commemorate their good-natured competition during a Venetian harpsichord contest sponsored by Cardinal Pietro Ottoboni, Gascho will perform what he calls "Ottoboni's Contest," a work of lively complexity in-



terspersing Handel's "Harmonious Blacksmith" variations with equally dazzling responses executed in the manner of Scarlatti.

As a special treat for those who thrive on hearing early eighteenth-century melodies sung in German, soprano Jennifer Ellis Kampani will deliver devotional arias from two Bach cantatas, along with Handel's settings of verses by his friend Barthold Heinrich Brockes. Rather than engaging in fancy wordplay, Brockes composed straightforward nature poems during contemplative walks in his garden, where close examination of blossoms, shrubs, and insects invariably suffused him with a powerful sense of spiritual communion. The recital will close with two of of Handel and Brockes' *Nine German Arias*: an ode to cascading amber flower petals tinged with silver and a hymn to roses whose iridescence signified to the poet the spark of life animating the entire world.

—arwulf arwulf

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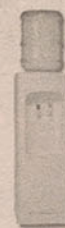
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discusses his current exhibit, which responds to the way indigenous history has been presented in art (see *Galleries*, p. 61). 2 p.m., *Institute for the Humanities Common Room*, 202 S. Thayer. Free. 936-3518.

★**"The Cherokee Rose: A Novel of Gardens & Ghosts":** U-M Authors Forum. U-M American culture professor Tiya Miles and U-M history professor Martha Jones discuss Miles' novel about slaveholding by Southern Creeks and Cherokees, and its legacy in the lives of 3 young women. Signing. 5:30-7 p.m., 100 U-M Hatcher Grad Library Gallery, enter from the Diag. Free. 764-3166.

★**"Smell and Tell: Baking with Flavor":** Ann Arbor District Library. Local flavor and fragrance expert Michelle Krell Kydd, creator of the award-winning smell and taste blog *Glass Petal Smoke*, introduces adults and teens in grade 6 & up to the use of food grade essential oils to make exquisite tea cakes and cookies without a mixer. 6:30-8:45 p.m., AADL 4th-floor meeting room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

★**"Les Pêcheurs de Perles (The Pearl Fishers)":** Metropolitan Opera (Fathom Events). See 16 Saturday. 6:30 p.m.

★**"Drumcommunity!"** Lori Fithian, a local drummer and drum teacher, leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. 7-9 p.m., *Crazy Wisdom Bookstore*, 114 S. Main. Free. 426-7818.

★**Literati Book Club:** Literati Bookstore. All invited to discuss *A Little Life*, Hanya Yanagihara's epic novel about 4 classmates from a small Massachusetts college who move to New York City. 7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

★**Michigan Robot Club.** All robotics hobbyists invited to work on and discuss robots. Preceded at 6 p.m. by a Kids Robot Club meeting for kids ages 5-13, accompanied by a parent. 7-9 p.m., *Maker Works*, 3765 Plaza Dr. (off Airport Blvd. north of Ellsworth). Free. [mirobotclub.com](http://mirobotclub.com)

★**Culinary History Reading Group:** Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to discuss *The Last Chinese Chef*, Nicole Mones's novel about a wid-

owed American food writer who unties the knots of her husband's past while profiling a rising Chinese culinary star. 7:30-9 p.m., *Motte & Bailey*, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669-0451.

★**"Birding in the Peruvian Andes":** Washtenaw Audubon Society. Slide-illustrated talk by WAS member Andrew Pawuk, an avid birder who lived in Peru for 2 years as a volunteer English teacher. 7:30 p.m., *U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens*, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free; metered parking. 677-3275.

**Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis:** University Musical Society. Pulitzer Prize-winning composer-trumpeter Marsalis leads the orchestra—widely regarded as the finest large jazz ensemble playing today—in popular songs from the 1960s to today, including works by Stevie Wonder, Donny Hathaway, and others. "One rarely hears this music played with such technical brilliance, stylistic authenticity and tonal sheen," writes a *Chicago Tribune* reviewer. 7:30 p.m., *Hill Auditorium*. Tickets \$10-\$60 in advance at [tickets.ums.org](http://tickets.ums.org), the Michigan League, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538, (800) 221-1229.

★**"Comedy Jamm":** Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 6 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

## 21 THURSDAY

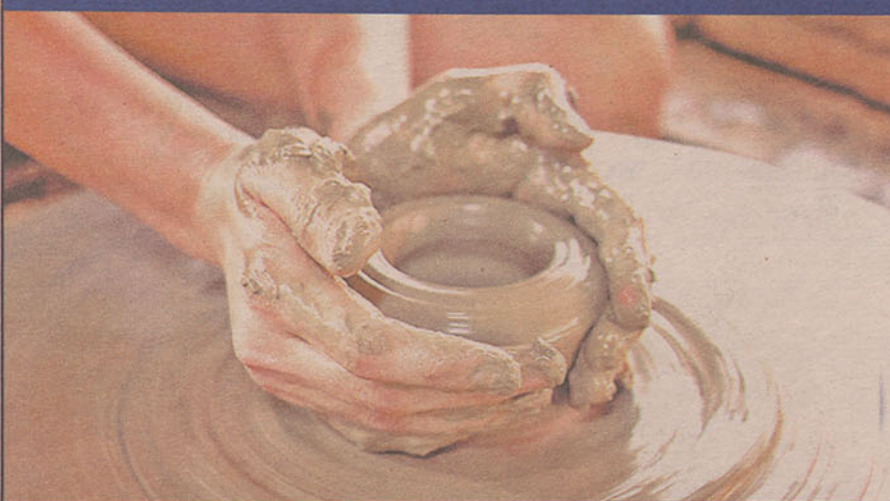
★**"The Artistry of Using Gadgets and Apps":** Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild. Club member Tracey Baetzel discusses technology geared toward music lovers. 10 a.m., *Kerrytown Concert House*, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 665-5346.

★**International Neighbors.** LineDanceA2 instructor Suzanne Smith leads a session of a form of country-western dancing for all area women, who are encouraged to wear their favorite country duds, like jeans, boots, and/or a cowgirl hat. Refreshments. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Also, a chance to sign up for club activity groups, including help with English. 1-2:30 p.m., *Westminster Presbyterian Church social hall*, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. 930-9962.

★**"Longing to Stay or Go? East-West Migration and the Making of the 'Free World'":** U-M Eisen-

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berg Institute for Historical Studies. Lecture by University of Chicago East European history professor Tara Zahra. 4 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 615-7400.

★**"Crossing the Line: Multiracial Comedians":** U-M Library/MLK Symposium. Screening of this 2007 documentary that explores the experiences, perspectives, and performances of American comedians of more than one racial ancestry. Discussion follows. 4-5:30 p.m., 2160 Shapiro Undergraduate Library, 919 South University. Free. 615-8610.

★**Young Jean Lee:** U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Speaker Series. Brown University theater professor Patricia Ybarra interviews this New York City writer, director, and filmmaker who has been called "the most adventurous downtown playwright of her generation" by the *New York Times*. Two of her works, *Untitled Feminist Show* and *Straight White Men*, are showing in town this weekend (see listing below and Jan. 22 listing). 5:10 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 668-8463.

★**Anne Carson:** U-M Zell Visiting Writers Series. Reading by this internationally renowned poet, a scholar of ancient Greek and a MacArthur "Genius" who is best known for *Autobiography of Red*, a contemporary retelling in verse of the myth of Hercules and the monster Geryon. (UMS brought the Barbican production of her recent translation of Sophocles' *Antigone* to town last October.) 5:30 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. [aireadm@umich.edu](mailto:aireadm@umich.edu), 764-6330.

★**"Goat's Cheese":** Zingerman's Creamery. Zingerman's Creamery staff discuss and offer taste samples, served with sweet and savory pairings, of a variety of goat's milk cheeses, including Zingerman's own Detroit St. Brick and Aged Chelsea. Also, a photo tour of the goat barn and milking parlor at Zingerman's Cornman Farms. 6-8 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$30. Reservations required. 929-0500.

★**"Tiki Time":** Zingerman's Cornman Farms. Zingerman's staff discuss the history of this pseudo-Polynesian drink fad, born in Hollywood in the 1940s, that was a mainstay on the American drinking scene for almost 40 years, and show how, using fresh fruit and painstakingly made syrups and purees, to make 3 classic Tiki cocktails: the Rum Runner, the Painkiller, and the drink that started the craze, the Mai Tai. Tastings. With appetizers. Recipes available. 7-9:30 p.m., Cornman Farms, 8540 Island Lake Rd., Dexter. \$70. Reservations required. 619-8100.

★**"The Prophet":** Aunt Agatha's Book Club. All invited to join a discussion of award-winning mystery writer and a former award-winning *Bloomington Herald-Times* reporter Michael Koryta's 2015 thriller about a small town terrorized by the killer of a teenage girl. Midwestern gothic novelist Donald Ray Pollock calls it "one of the sharpest and superbly plotted crime novels I've read in my life." 7 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769-1114.

★**Nerd Nite Ann Arbor:** Ann Arbor District Library. Popular monthly event featuring several speakers TBA (at [annarbor.nerdnite.com](http://annarbor.nerdnite.com)) who give fun yet informative talks, 18-21 minutes long, about topics that interest them, from nanoparticles to the science of the Simpsons and the genealogy of Godzilla. 7-9 p.m. or later (doors open at 6:30 p.m.), Live, 102 S. First. Free. 327-4555.

★**"Untitled Feminist Show":** Young Jean Lee's Theater Company (University Musical Society). Jan. 21 & 22. Lee directs her adventurous New York company in her fully nude, wordless celebration of identity that combines theater, dance, cabaret, and burlesque to challenge assumptions about gender politics. *New Yorker* critic Hilton Als calls it "one of the more moving and imaginative works I have ever seen on the American stage." For mature audiences. The company also performs *Straight White Men* Jan. 22 & 23 (see listings). 7:30 p.m. (Jan. 21) & 8 p.m. (Jan. 22), Power Center. Tickets \$20-\$48 in advance at [tickets.ums.org](http://tickets.ums.org), the Michigan League, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538, (800) 221-1229.

★**"SMTD@UMMA: All Hail Me":** UMMA/U-M School of Music. U-M composition students perform new works inspired by the current UMMA exhibit, *Come as You Are: Art of the 1990s*. 8 p.m., UMMA Apse, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395, 615-3204.

★**"The Odd Couple":** Purple Rose Theatre Company. Every Wed.-Sun., Jan. 21-Mar. 26. Lauren Mounsey directs Neil Simon's vintage comedy about 2 men—one a fussy neatnik, the other a free-spirited slob—who find themselves living together after their wives throw them out. Within 2 weeks, the tension between fastidiousness and slovenliness builds to a perilous peak. Cast: David Bendena, David Montee, Michelle Mountain, Jim Porterfield, Rhiannon Ragland, Guy Sanville, Tom Whalen. 8 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.), 3 p.m. (Wed. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets \$28 (Wed.), \$25 (Thurs.), \$38 (Fri. eve. & weekend matinees), \$43 (Sat. eve.) in advance at [purplerosetheatre.org](http://purplerosetheatre.org) and by phone, and (if avail-

able) at the door. Preview discounts available for the first week of shows. 433-7673.

★**Matt Braunger:** Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Jan. 21-23. Affable Chicago-based comic, a regular on MADtv during its final season, who blends often dark oddball tales with goofy one-liners. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$12 (Thurs.) & \$16 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$14 (Thurs.) & \$18 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

## 22 FRIDAY

★**"Subversions of the American Century: The Surprising Challenges of 20th-Century Filipino Literature in Spanish":** U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Lecture by Georgetown University Spanish professor Adam Lifshay. Noon-1:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB/International Institute, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0352.

★**"Technologies for Intuition":** U-M Anthropology Department Rappaport Lecture Series. U-M anthropology professor Alaina Lemon presents the 1st in a series of 4 monthly lectures on "Communication and Enchantment." 3 p.m., Rackham Assembly Hall (4th floor). Free. 764-7274.

★**"Shakespeare on Page and Stage":** U-M Hatcher Grad Library Gallery. Curators Pablo Alvarez and Juli McLoone discuss the current exhibit (see *Galleries*, p. 61) that explores versions of Shakespeare's plays as they were edited for publication or interpreted for the stage, including the Second Folio (1632) as well as a selection of landmark editions by scholars such as John Dryden, Nicholas Rowe, Alexander Pope, Samuel Johnson, and Edmond Malone. 4-6:30 p.m., 100 Hatcher Grad Library Gallery, enter from the Diag. Free. 936-2311.

★**Harlem Globetrotters:** EMU Convocation Center. The Globetrotters, currently celebrating their 90th anniversary, bring their legendary blend of basketball wizardry and antic comedy to EMU for an exhibition game. 7 p.m., EMU Convocation Center, 799 N. Hewitt (north off Washtenaw), Ypsilanti. \$19-\$256 in advance at the EMU Convocation Center ([emutix.com](http://emutix.com)) and at the door. 487-2282.

★**"Winterfest 2016":** Saline Main Street. Jan. 22 & 23. Two-day festival of indoor and outdoor winter activities. Friday's kickoff party includes bonfires, marshmallow roasting, cocoa, ice sculptures, and more. Saturday: broom ball, corn hole tournament, kids activities, inflatables, human sledding races (snow dependent), an outdoor "Cold Butt Euchre Tournament," and more. 7-10 p.m. (Jan. 22, time is tentative) & 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Jan. 23), downtown Saline. Free admission. [salinemainstreetmi@gmail.com](mailto:salinemainstreetmi@gmail.com)

★**"Owls: Inside & Out":** Leslie Science & Nature Center. Adults age 18 & older invited to meet a few of the LSNC resident owls and then dissect an owl pellet to find out what they're eating. 7-8 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. \$6 (members, \$5). Preregistration required by Jan. 14. 997-1553.

★**Mark Webster Reading Series:** U-M English Department. Readings by U-M creative writing grad students. Tonight: poet Hanae Jonas and fiction writer Emily Chew. 7 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 615-3710.

★**"Excerpts from a Natural History":** Bookbound. Singapore-based writer Holly Painter reads from her new collection of poems inspired by the notion of a researcher-poet, dreamed up by 17th-century British natural philosophers, who would create a poetic account of everything in nature. The collection chronicles everything from asteroidean echinoderms (starfish) to Oxford's former prison building, complete with marginal notes written by an imagined editor. 7 p.m., Bookbound, 1729 Plymouth Rd., Courtyard Shops. Free. 369-4345.

★**Ann Arbor Kirtan.** All invited to join a group performance of this traditional devotional call-and-response music based on Hindu Vaishnava texts and the writings of poet-saints. Accompanied by live music based on rhythmic Indian ragas on bass guitar, tabla, and drums. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free, but donations accepted. 761-7435.

★**Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center:** University Musical Society. This ensemble performs chamber works from various historical periods and in various styles. Program: Mozart's Quartet in E-flat major, Schubert's Rondo in A major, and Mendelssohn's Double Concerto in D minor. Musicians include violinist (and Ann Arbor native) Benjamin Beilman, pianist Wu Han, violist Richard O'Neill, cellist Nicholas Canellakis, and violinists Kristin Lee and Sean Lee. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets \$30-\$65 in advance at [tickets.ums.org](http://tickets.ums.org), the Michigan League, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538, (800) 221-1229.

★**San, Emily, & Jacob:** Mangiamo Italian Grill Acoustic Routes Concert. This local acoustic trio—father and daughter singer-instrumentalists San & Emily Slomovits with bassist Jacob Warren—



## John Gorka

## Really worth hearing

The first time I heard John Gorka was at the Michigan Theater sometime in the early Nineties, when he was the opening act for someone I don't remember. That says something about my memory but probably more about Gorka. (My better half, who came to that concert with me, *does* remember the headliner, but she also recalls Gorka's as the more memorable set.) That night, Gorka made a small joke while he plugged in his acoustic guitar, and the theater began shrinking to living room dimensions. The warmth, ease, intelligence, and humor emanating from the stage were palpable even from the cheap seats. Not to mention the musicianship.

There was nothing flashy or flamboyant about any single aspect of Gorka's performance. It was the complete package that was so coherent and startling. His guitar playing is clean, pleasing, and an ideal backdrop to his warm, mellow voice, which practically every reviewer describes as a "soulful baritone." His stage presence is comfortable, and his between-song patter is genuine and often very funny. But it's his songs that make you sit up and lean forward. The tunes are eminently hum-along-able (humming and wordless vocalizing are devices he uses frequently and effectively), while his lyrics range from the mysterious to the hilarious. "That beautiful broken place that gave you a curtained freedom / Your bane and your saving grace" all the way to "People my age have started looking gross." (Gorka is fifty-seven.)

There is the tongue-in-cheeky "B.B. King Was Wrong" and the ironic and sardonic "I'm from New Jersey" ("it's like Ohio, but even more so"). He's got heartfelt love songs that work just as well to an audience as to a lover. "It's from me, it's to you, for your eyes / It's a weight, a wonder that is



wise / I am here, you are there / Love is our cross to bear." And by no means is he only about, in his words, "happy rhymes." Try and hold back your tears when you listen to "Let Them In." Every phrase in every song is burnished smooth, but with the wildness still breathing inside.

His sound combines a hint of country, a bit of blues, and a lot of just plain Gorka. Of course he uses the same notes and chords that every other songwriter can access, but he manages to combine them in ways that make the songs instantly identifiable as his.

Gorka has been a folk favorite since 1984, when he won a New Folk Award at the Kerrville Folk Festival. His songs have been sung and recorded by Nanci Griffith, Mary Chapin Carpenter, David Wilcox, and Maura O'Connell, among many others. If you've seen Gorka before, you need no convincing. If you haven't, you can introduce yourself to someone really worth hearing when he returns to the Ark on Sunday, January 24 (see Nightspots).

—Sandor Slomovits

performs a wide range of traditional and contemporary folk, jazz, and classical music, including material from their CD, *Innocent When You Dream*. 8 p.m., Mangiamo, 107 W. Michigan Ave., Saline. \$15 by reservation and at the door. Preferred seating for dinner customers. 429-0060.

**"Straight White Men":** Young Jean Lee Theater Company (University Musical Society). Jan. 22 & 23. Lee directs her adventurous New York company in her play about a man and his 3 adult sons who confront some uncomfortable truths when they come together to celebrate Christmas. The *New York Times* calls it "a compassionate study of one man's uneasy search of meaning, and his discovery that, in the world of straight white men, failure may be acceptable, but being content with a disappointed life is most definitely not." The company also performs *Untitled Feminist Show* Jan. 21 & 22 (see listings). 8 p.m. (Jan. 22 & 23) & 2 p.m. (Jan. 23). Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets \$35-\$45 in advance at tickets.ums.org, the Michigan League, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538, (800) 221-1229.

**"Avenue Q":** Dexter Community Players. See 15 Friday, 8 p.m.

**"The Odd Couple":** Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 21 Thursday, 8 p.m.

**"Untitled Feminist Show":** Young Jean Lee's Theater Company (University Musical Society). See 21 Thursday, 8 p.m.

**Matt Braunger:** Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 21 Thursday, 8 & 10:30 p.m.

**"Pointless Improv":** Pointless Brewery & Theatre. See 1 Friday, 8 p.m.

## 23 SATURDAY

**"Citizen Pruner":** Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division. NAP staff show how to prune young trees for shape and overall health. Aimed at those interested in participating in a volunteer program for the long-term upkeep of city trees. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Wheeler Service Center, 4251 Stone School Rd.

Free. Space limited; preregistration required by Jan. 20 to tstephens@a2gov.org. 794-6627.

**"Annual Winter Stonefly Search":** Huron River Watershed Council. All invited to join a watershed-wide hunt for these elusive river insects, which are active only in winter when fish are sluggish. Wear warm clothes. (You will not go into the water.) Children must be accompanied by an adult. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (choose one session), begin at the NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free. Preregistration required by Jan. 19 at hrwc.org/volunteer/stonefly. jfrenzel@hrwc.org

**"ScienceFest: Snow Science":** Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. Jan. 23 & 24. Hands-on science activities and demos, including a chance to explore different kinds of snowflakes and make a snow gauge. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Sat.) & noon-4 p.m. (Sun.), AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. \$12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995-5439.

**"Science Fun with F.E.M.M.E.S.":** Ann Arbor District Library. Members of the U-M chapter of Females Excelling More in Math, Engineering, and Science host a program of hands-on science activities for kids in grades 2-6. 10:30 a.m.-noon, AADL Mallett Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-8301.

**"Little Peeps Playground":** Pointless Brewery & Theatre. See 2 Saturday, 10:30 a.m.

**"Family Art Studio: Color! Action! Design!":** UMMA. All families with kids ages 6-12 invited to create a movie poster or collage inspired by the current exhibit, *Soviet Constructivist Posters: Branding the New Order*. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2-4 p.m., UMMA Multipurpose Room, 525 S. State. Free, but preregistration required by emailing umma-program-registration@umich.edu (include title, date, and time of program in the subject line of the email). 764-0395.

**"Chillin' at the Mills":** Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Park naturalist Mark Irish hosts a variety of winter activities, including (weather permitting) cross-country skiing, Klon-

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dike racing and dog sledding demos, and more. Afterward, an indoor craft activity and hot chocolate. 11 a.m.–noon, Hudson Mills activity center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. \$5 (kids, \$3). \$4.50 extra includes lunch. Preregistration required. \$5 vehicle entrance fee. 426-8211.

★**"Lego": Barnes & Noble.** All adults and teens age 14 & up invited to help build the store's new Lego in-store display and then build something with Lego Architecture Studio bricks. Noon, Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations required. 973-0846.

**Justin Roberts & the Not Ready for Naptime Players: The Ark.** Family concert by this acclaimed ensemble led by Roberts, a Minneapolis indie rock singer-songwriter turned Montessori preschool teacher. The band has been a big hit everywhere from Symphony Space in New York to Lollapalooza, and its CD *Not Naptime* was named by Parents' Choice as one of the 25 best kids CDs of the past 25 years. 1 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$12.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office ([mutotix.com](http://mutotix.com)) and [theark.org](http://theark.org), and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**"Ticket to Ride": Barnes & Noble.** All invited to learn to play this popular railway-themed strategy board game. 2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations required. 973-0846.

★**"Paracord Survival Wristbands": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades 4–12 invited to use simple knots to condense 6 feet of cord into a wearable wristband. 2–3 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

★**"FutureStars 2016": Pioneer High School.** See 15 Friday. Tonight: Finals competition. 7:30 p.m.

**Aaron Berofsky & Joseph Gascho: Academy of Early Music.** See review, p. 69. Violinist Berofsky and harpsichordist Gascho—both U-M professors—are joined by soprano Jennifer Ellis Kampani in a program of works by composers born in 1685. Program: Scarlatti's sonatas in G minor; Handel's Sonata in A major, "Süsser Blumen Ambrakloeken," and "Flammende Rose, Zierde der Erden"; and Bach's Sonata in G major, "Komm in mein Herzenshaus," and "Bereite dir Jesu noch izto die Bahn." 8 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets \$25 (seniors, \$22; students, \$10) in advance at [AcademyOfEarlyMusic.org](http://AcademyOfEarlyMusic.org), Nicola's Books (2513 Jackson), Bookbound (1729 Plymouth), and at the door. 478-6421.

**Finvarra's Wren: Mangiamo Italian Grill Acoustic Routes Concert.** Traditional Irish, Scottish, English, and Celtic-American dances and carols by this Detroit-area multigenerational quartet led by singer-guitarist Jim Perkins. With Cheryl Burns on bodhran and mountain dulcimer, Alison Perkins on fiddle and whistle, and Asher Perkins on button accordion and concertina. 8 p.m., Mangiamo, 107 W. Michigan Ave., Saline. \$15 by reservation and at the door. Preferred seating for dinner customers. 429-0060.

★**"5th Annual Ragtime Extravaganza": River Raisin Ragtime Revue.** This Tecumseh-based ragtime orchestra hosts its annual ragtime, vaudeville, and burlesque show. Performers include the husband-and-wife duo of leading Italian jazz pianist Paolo Alderighi and up-and-coming stride pianist Stephanie Trick, Chicago ragtime pianist (and MacArthur fellow) Reginald Robinson, jazz pianist James Dapogny, the local folk trio San, Emily and Jacob, the local jazz dance quartet Erin Morris & Her Ragdolls, Detroit burlesque performer Lushes LaMoan, and the Cake Walkin' Jass Band, a New Orleans-style jazz band from Toledo. Emcee is longtime local radio personality Arwulf Von Arwulf. Also, the vaudeville-style circus act Top Hat Side Show performs in the lobby preceding the performance and at intermission with a fortuneteller. 8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$15–\$65 in advance at [ragtimeextravaganza.bpt.me](http://ragtimeextravaganza.bpt.me) & by phone. Tickets: (800) 838-3006. Info: [ragtimeband.org](http://ragtimeband.org), (517) 673-2597.

★**"Straight White Men": Young Jean Lee Theater Company (University Musical Society).** See 22 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

★**"The Odd Couple": Purple Rose Theatre Company.** See 21 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★**"Avenue Q": Dexter Community Players.** See 15 Friday. 8 p.m.

**Matt Braunger: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 21 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★**"Pointless Improv": Pointless Brewery & Theatre.** See 1 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

## 24 SUNDAY

★**"Monster Ann Arbor Record & CD Collector's Show": Rerun Records.** Popular fair with more than 50 dealers from a half dozen states selling rare and collectible used records and CDs as well as hard-to-find new releases. Includes every popular music genre, along with rock music books, rock videos, posters, and assorted popular culture memorabilia. Food and beverages for sale. Patrons may bring in a small number of records to sell. 10 a.m.–4 p.m., We-

ber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. \$3 admission (children age 10 & under, free). For information or to reserve a dealer table, call Rod Branham at 604-2540.

★**"Brewing Methods": Zingerman's Coffee Company.** Zingerman's Coffee Co. staff demonstrate and discuss 6–8 different ways to brew coffee, from filter drip to siphon pot. 1–3 p.m., Zingerman's Coffee Company, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$30. 929-6060.

★**"Dancing Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** Creative movement teacher Dianne Dudley leads infants through 5-year-olds (accompanied by an adult) in a dancing program. 1–1:40 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Lexington and Concord Battle Road: Birthplace of the American Revolution": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County.** Talk by EMU education professor emerita Judy Williston. Followed by showing of a DVD lecture by the nationally known genealogy educator John Phillip Coletta on "Military Research." 1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off E. Huron River Dr. at Clark Rd.). Use parking lot P and look for the club's signs. Free. 483-2799.

★**"New Technologies and Victorian Society": UMMA.** Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of early British photos from the museum's permanent collection. 2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

★**"Winter Orienteering": Waterloo Natural History Association.** WNAHA naturalists lead a hike to learn how to find your way through the woods in winter. Compass provided, or bring your own. 2–4 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center lower parking lot (except as noted), Bush Rd. (west off Pierce Rd. from I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. \$2 (families, \$5). Space limited; preregistration required. \$10 annual vehicle entrance fee. 475-3170.

★**"Zen & the Art of Coloring": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults invited to see if they can attain a meditative state of mind by coloring pages from Joanna Basford's popular *Secret Garden*, *Enchanted Forest*, and brand-new *Lost Ocean* coloring books. Supplies provided. Refreshments. 2–4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★**Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild.** All invited to listen to guild members swap stories or bring their own to tell. 2–4 p.m., Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971-5763.

★**"Friends in Song and Stories": Ann Arbor District Library.** A program for kids in grades K–3 featuring AADL storyteller Laura Pershin Raynor, a former National Storyteller of the Year, and her longtime friends Gemini, the popular acoustic duo of twin brothers Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits whose repertoire includes sing-alongs, folk songs from around the world, and upbeat originals about life's simple pleasures, all performed with a boisterous sense of fun on more than a dozen instruments. Gemini is joined by San's daughter, fiddler Emily Slomovits. 2–2:45 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★**"The Odd Couple": Purple Rose Theatre Company.** See 21 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"In Conversation: Come as You Are: Art of the 1990s": UMMA.** UMMA museum teaching and learning curator Pam Reister discusses the current exhibit. 3–4 p.m., UMMA Taubman Gallery, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

★**"Michigan at Antietam: The Wolverine State's Sacrifice on America's Bloodiest Day": Nicola's Books.** Michigan Civil War Association president Jack Dempsey and The Henry Ford executive producer Brian James Egen discuss their new book about Michigan's role in the Civil War's bloodiest battle. Signing. 3 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

**Ann Arbor String Trio: First United Methodist Church Green Wood Chamber Music Series.** This ensemble led by Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra cellist Sarah Cleveland performs a program TBA. 3 p.m., FUMC Green Wood, 1001 Green Rd. Freewill offering. 662-4536, ext. 0.

★**U-M Life Sciences Orchestra.** Roberto Kalb conducts this ensemble of musicians from the U-M medical and life sciences staff in Sibelius's Symphony no. 2, Beethoven's *Coriolan Overture*, and Grieg's *Peer Gynt Suite no. 1*. 4 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 936-ARTS.

★**"A Gift of Song": Ann Arbor Threshold Choir.** This local choir performs an eclectic program ranging from lullabies, rounds, and chants to hymns from various cultures and spiritual traditions. Attendees are asked to arrive a little before the start time. 4:30–6 p.m., Church of the Good Shepherd, 2145 Independence Blvd. Free. 786-3991.

★**"Jane Eyre": National Theatre Live (University Musical Society).** Broadcast of the National Theatre (London)'s acclaimed theatrical adaptation of Charlotte Brontë's Gothic novel about a bold orphan-turned-governess who survives poverty, injustice, and a bitter betrayal before ultimately choosing to follow her heart. 7–10:30 p.m., Michigan Theater.



Tickets \$22 (Michigan Theater members & UMS donors & subscribers, \$18) in advance at [tickets.ums.org](http://tickets.ums.org), the Michigan League, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538, (800) 221-1229.

**"The Open Stage":** Pointless Brewery & Theatre. See 3 Sunday. 7 p.m.

## 25 MONDAY

★**"Queen for a Day: Transformistas, Beauty Queens, and the Performance of Femininity in Venezuela":** U-M Anthropology Department. Talk by University of California-Santa Cruz feminist studies professor Marcia Ochoa. 4 p.m., Lane Hall Commons, 204 S. State. Free. 764-7274.

★**"The Emperor's New Genes: Science, Race, Policy, and the Allure of Objectivity":** U-M Science, Technology, & Society Program. Princeton University African American studies professor Ruha Benjamin discusses the way genomic science reflects, reinforces, and sometimes challenges racial and caste hierarchies. 4-5:30 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 763-2066.

★**"Folk Song Sing-Along."** All invited to join a family-oriented recreational sing-along of folk songs. Bring your guitars, ukuleles, and other instruments if you'd like to jam along as well. Lyrics and chords are projected on a screen for singers and strummers. Led by Lori Fithian and Jean Chorazyczewski. 7 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 426-7818.

★**Jeffrey Lyman:** U-M School of Music. This U-M bassoon professor leads an ensemble of U-M music professors and the U-M Baroque Chamber Orchestra in darkly passionate Baroque works, including Vivaldi's Concerti in G minor and Cantata "per qual ignoto calle," Rameau's "Lieux funestes" from *Dardanus* and "Tristes apprêts" from *Castor et Pollux*, and Handel's "Pena tiranna" from *Amadigi*. 8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. McIntosh Theatre, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

## 26 TUESDAY

★**U-M Center for Chinese Studies Noon Lecture Series.** Columbia University Law School Center for Chinese Legal Studies director Benjamin Liebman discusses a topic TBA. Free sandwiches, cookies, & coffee served. Noon-1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-6308.

★**Marge Piercy: U-M Hopwood Underclassmen Awards Ceremony.** Fiction and poetry reading by this *New York Times* best-selling writer, a 4-time Hopwood winner and author of the novels *Gone to Soldier*, *Braided Lives*, *The Longings of Women*, and *Woman on the Edge of Time*, as well as 18 volumes of poetry and the critically acclaimed memoir *Sleeping with Cats*. Preceded by awards presentations to U-M undergrad poets and prose writers. 3:30 p.m., Rackham Amphitheatre. Free. 764-6296.

★**"Show Your Love for Michigan!":** Ann Arbor District Library. All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to make a Michigan charm to celebrate January 26, the day Michigan became a state in 1837. 7-8 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Food Justice Panel: Exploring Racial Inequities in the Food System":** U-M Sustainable Food Program. Panelists include Earthworks Urban Farm (Detroit) representative Shane Bernardo, grad students working on U-M environmental justice professor Dorceta Taylor's Food Access in Michigan project, and others. 7-8:30 p.m., 1040 Dana Bldg., 440 Church. Free. (315) 506-3339.

★**"Sex on TV: What Are We Learning? Why Does It Matter?":** Ann Arbor District Library. U-M psychology professor Monique Ward discusses how regular exposure to mainstream media affects young peoples' sexual attitudes, expectations, and experiences. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

## 27 WEDNESDAY

★**"Immigration and Terrorism: A Case Study":** Ann Arbor City Club Lunch and Learn. Talk by U.S. Attorney's Office Eastern District of Michigan national security unit chief Jonathan Tukul. Lunch. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., AACCC, 1830 Washtenaw. \$30 (members, \$25). Reservations required by Jan. 22. 662-3279, ext. 1.

★**"A Gull Between Earth and Heaven: Imagery in Traditional Chinese Poetry":** U-M Confucius Institute. Talk by Binghamton University Confucius Institute of Chinese Opera director Zu-yan Chen. Noon, Michigan League Koessler Room. Free. 764-8888.

★**Brown Bag Recital Series:** U-M School of Music. 30-minute concert by Cathedral Church of St. Paul (Detroit) organist Charles Miller. Bring a bag lunch, if you wish; food available at the Crossroads Café. 12:15 p.m., U-M SPH Community Room, 109 S. Observatory. Free. 615-3204.

★**"The Odd Couple":** Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 21 Thursday. 3 p.m.

★**"Contested Diffusion of Human Rights: Evidence from the South Korean Print Media, 1990-2010":** U-M Nam Center for Korean Studies. Lecture by Sungkyunkwan University (Korea) sociology professor Jeong-Woo Koo. 4 p.m., 1636 SSWB/International Institute, 1080 South University. Free. 764-1825.

★**"Is There a Student Debt Crisis?":** U-M Ford School of Public Policy. Panel discussion with 2 leading voices in the debate on student debt reform, former Consumer Financial Protection Bureau student loan ombudsman Rohit Chopra and U-M education and public policy professor Susan Dynarski. 4-5:30 p.m., Weill Hall Annenberg Auditorium, 735 S. State at Hill. Free. 764-3490.

★**"Converging Paths: The Artist in Conversation":** U-M Center for Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies. Renowned Polish photographer Pawel Figurski, who is known for his urban street photographs, is interviewed by U-M Judaic studies professor Jeffrey Veidlinger and U-M sociology professor Genevieve Zubrzycki. 4-5:30 p.m., 2022 Thayer Bldg., 202 S. Thayer. Free. 764-0351.

★**"A Mammoth Find":** U-M Natural History Museum Science Café. U-M paleontology professor Daniel Fisher and Museum of Paleontology vertebrate fossils collection manager Adam Rountrey discuss the recent mammoth find by Lima Township farmer James Bristle. Followed by discussion. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. Free. 764-0478.

★**"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word":** Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Readings by John F. Buckley, a recent U-M creative writing MFA who has published 2 chapbooks and the collection *Sky Sandwiches*, and Kim D. Hunter, a veteran Detroit poet known for what he calls the "social surrealism" of his gritty post-industrial cityscapes. Followed by a poetry and short fiction open mike. 7-9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757.

★**"A Field Guide to the Natural Communities of Michigan":** Literati Bookstore. Michigan Natural Features Inventory ecologist Joshua Cohen discusses his book that divides the state's environments into categories such as patterned fen and volcanic bedrock glade. Signing. 7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

★**R.J. Fox: Nicola's Books.** This award-winning local writer reads from *Love & Vodka: My Surreal Adventures in Ukraine*, his memoir about how he dropped everything to pursue a romance with a Ukrainian woman. "The reader ... will walk away shaky-legged, enlightened, and undoubtedly able to correctly pronounce Dnipropetrovsk," says local writer Jeff Kass. Signing. 7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

★**"Rise Again Community Sing-Along":** Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. All invited to join a sing-along, led by Jeanne Mackey, of some of the 1,200 songs in various genres from the *Rise Again Songbook*, a new edition of the popular *Rise Up Singing* group singing songbook compiled by Annie Patterson and Ann Arbor native Peter Blood. 7-9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757.

★**History of Science Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to discuss Richard Rhodes's *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*. 7:30-9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669-0451.

★**Lisa Fischer: University Musical Society.** This celebrated backup vocalist was featured in the Oscar-winning documentary *Twenty Feet from Stardom* and has performed with Luther Vandross, the Rolling Stones, Sting, Chris Botti, and many others. Tonight she performs with Grand Baton, an alt-rock band that fuses African, Middle Eastern, and Caribbean rhythms. 7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$22-\$42 in advance at [tickets.ums.org](http://tickets.ums.org), the Michigan League, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538, (800) 221-1229.

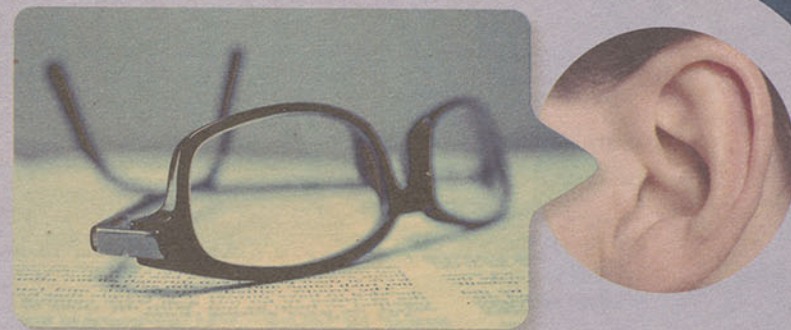
★**University Symphony Orchestra:** U-M School of Music. Program TBA. Preceded at 7:15 p.m. in the lower lobby by a lecture on the program. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615-3204.

★**"In the Name of Love: A Truly Operatic Evening":** U-M School of Music. Pianist and U-M opera coach Kathleen Kelly is joined by sopranos Caroline Helton and Carmen Pelton, mezzo-soprano Freda Herseth, baritones Daniel Washington and Stephen Lusmann, bass-baritone Stephen West, and tenors Stanford Olsen, Scott Piper, and George Shirley in a program of opera works from Mozart to Bernstein. 8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

★**"Comedy Jamm":** Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 6 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

## 28 THURSDAY

★**"Applying History: Learning New Lessons for Today from the Past of Jewish Transnational Ac-**



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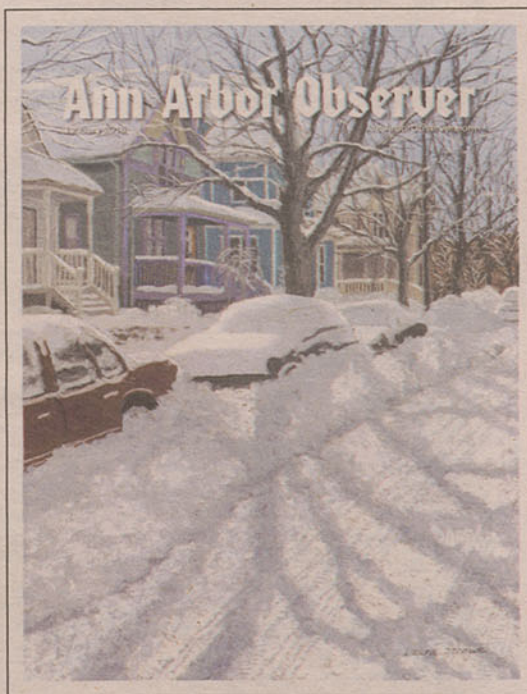
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tivism": U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Lecture by Hebrew University of Jerusalem Russian studies and contemporary Jewry lecturer Jonathan Dekel-Chen. 12:15 p.m., 2022 Thayer Bldg., 202 S. Thayer. Free. 763-9047.

★"UnMosqued": U-M Islamic Studies. Screening of Ahmed Eid's 2014 documentary exploring the sociology of immigrant-founded mosques in America. Followed at 5:30 p.m. by discussion moderated by U-M communication studies professor Muzammil Hussain. 4 p.m., 1636 SSWB (1080 South University). Free. 936-2777.

★"Dan Goods: Seeing the Unseen": U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Speaker Series. This NASA Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) visual strategist discusses his efforts to translate the complex and abstract work of NASA JPL scientists into relatable forms, experiences, and sounds. 5:10 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 668-8463.

"Eating the ABCs": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. Junior League of Ann Arbor members lead kids in grades 1-5 in experiments focused on the vitamin and mineral content of food. Also, games and a chance to make a nutritious snack. 5:45 & 7 p.m., AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. \$10 (members, \$5). Preregistration required. 995-5439.

"Blue Cheese Dreams": Zingerman's Creamery. Zingerman's Creamery staff discuss and offer taste samples of various styles of blue cheese from around the globe, accompanied with tasty pairings. 6-8 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$30. Reservations required. 929-0500.

★"Comic Book Magnets": Ann Arbor District Library. Craft activity for adults and teens in grade 6 & up. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL secret lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★"Establishing a Rain Garden: Clean Up the Huron River, One Garden at a Time": Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by Washtenaw County Resources Commissioner's Office rain garden coordinator Susan Bryan. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-8301.

"The Room": Fathom Events. Rebroadcast of a RiffTrax "riffing" performance by former *Mystery Science Theater 3000* stars Michael J. Nelson, Kevin Murphy, and Bill Corbett, who aim their comic heckling at a screening of Tommy Wiseau's 2003 dark comedy. A successful banker is about to be married when he finds out the horrible truth about his fiancée. 7:30 p.m., Quality 16, 3686 Jackson. Tickets \$12 in advance at [fathomevents.com/event/best-of-rifftrax-live-the-room](http://fathomevents.com/event/best-of-rifftrax-live-the-room). 623-7469.

★Faculty Showcase: U-M School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. Music, theater, and dance professors perform works TBA. 8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

"The Electric Baby": Kickshaw Theatre. Jan. 28-31 and Feb. 4-7, 10-14, & 18-21. Lynn Lammers directs this new local theater company in Stefanie Zdravce's dark, fantastical, and touching drama about 6 people whose lives intersect after a tragic car accident, forcing each to confront the secrets, hopes, and fears that consume them. The playwright invokes "the imperceptible magic that pervades human existence and the power of myth to assuage sorrow," says a *New York Times* review. Cast: Julia Glander, Peter Carey, Vanessa Sawson, Will Bryson, Mary Dilworth, and Michael Lopetrone. 8 p.m. (Jan. 28-30 and Feb. 4-6, 10-12, & 18-20), 4 p.m. (Jan. 31 and Feb. 7, 14, & 21), 7:30 p.m. (Jan. 31), & 3 p.m. (Feb. 6, 13, & 20), Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Tickets \$20-\$28 (students, \$12) in advance at [kickshaw.brownpapertickets.com](http://kickshaw.brownpapertickets.com) and at the door. (800) 838-3006.

"The Odd Couple": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 21 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Ricardo Flanagan: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Jan. 28-30. Known for his biting takes on relationships, racial relations, workplace issues, and poverty. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$9 (Thurs.) & \$12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$11 (Thurs.) & \$14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

## 29 FRIDAY

★U-M German Department. Talk on a topic TBA by University of North Carolina comparative literature professor Inga Pollmann, an expert on German film. 2-4 p.m., 3308 MLB, 812 E. Washington. Free. 764-8018, 763-9047.

★"Wearing the Body": U-M Residential College. RC drawing & printmaking lecturer Ana Fernandez discusses the current exhibit (see *Galleries*, p. 61) of her prints and works on paper. 4 p.m., U-M Residential College Benzinger Library, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 763-0176.

39th Annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival: The Ark. Jan. 29 & 30 (different programs). A major highlight



of the local musical year, with established and rising stars representing a wide spectrum of vernacular musical idioms. Tonight's headliner is **City and Colour**, the stage name of Canadian singer-songwriter Dallas Green. Best known as the singer-guitarist in the post-hardcore band Alexisonfire, Green has a new CD, *If I Should Go Before You*, that explores the emotional and spiritual extremes of romantic relationships. Also appearing: A former lead guitarist with the legendary English folk-rock group Fairport Convention, **Richard Thompson** has since established himself as one of England's most compelling and original singer-songwriters. His solo recordings have been widely acclaimed for their trenchant lyrics, alternately (and sometimes simultaneously) plangent and humorous, and for their adventurous, evocative blending of early rock 'n' roll with Scottish dance rhythms. Thompson is also one of the best rock guitarists around, and many of his fans come to his concerts just to hear his biting, incisive guitar solos. **Yo La Tengo** is a veteran New Jersey postpunk trio that plays inventive, emotionally direct rock 'n' roll featuring the alternately haunting and menacing husband-and-wife vocal harmonies of guitarist Ira Kaplan and drummer Georgia Hubley. **The Oh Hellos** is the San Marcos (TX) acoustic folk-rock duo of siblings Tyler and Maggie Heath. **Nora Jane Struthers & the Party Line** is a Nashville band led by Americana singer-songwriter Struthers, a former high school English teacher whose story songs draw on old-time, bluegrass, and folk ballad traditions. **Penny & Sparrow** is an Austin alt-folk singer-songwriter duo who cite the Swell Season, Bon Iver, and Mumford & Sons as influences. **The Ben Daniels Band** is a Chelsea quintet, led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Daniels, that plays artful, dynamic rock 'n' roll whose influences range from Robert Johnson to Dylan to Jack White. Emcee tonight is **David Mayfield**, a Nashville-based Americana folk-rock singer-songwriter known for his lively, sometimes comical live performances. 6:30 p.m., *Hill Auditorium*. Tickets \$37.50-\$100 per night and \$67.50-\$180 in advance at the *Michigan Union Ticket Office* (*mototix.com*) and *theark.org*, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**"Michigan Literary Luminaries: From Elmore Leonard to Robert Hayden": Ann Arbor District Library.** Detroit freelance journalist Anna Clark discusses her new book. Signing, 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

★**Paul Lisicky: Literati Bookstore.** This New York City-based writer reads from *The Narrow Door*, his new memoir about 2 long-term relationships: one with a novelist friend and the other with his poet ex-husband, set against the backdrop of environmental disasters such as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and the earthquake in Haiti. Signing, 7 p.m., *Literati*, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

**Aaron Tan: First United Methodist Church.** This St. John's Episcopal Church (Detroit) organ scholar performs a varied program of works by Mozart, Liszt, Holst, Rachmaninoff, and others. Reception follows. 7:30 p.m., *FUMC*, 120 S. State. Freewill offering. 662-4536, ext. 0.

★**"My Fair Lady": Burns Park Players.** Jan. 29 & 30 and Feb. 5 & 6. Burns Park Elementary School students, parents, and friends perform Lerner & Loewe's perennially popular musical (based on George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*) about an uneducated Cockney girl who is transformed into a high-class lady through the offices of a British speech professor. The popular score includes "Wouldn't It Be Lovely," "With a Little Bit of Luck," and "I Could Have Danced All Night." 7:30 p.m. (Jan. 29 & 30 and Feb. 5) & 4 p.m. (Feb. 6), *Tappan Middle School*, 2251 E. Stadium. Tickets \$15 (patron seats, \$30) in advance at *showtix4u.com* beginning Jan. 15 and (if available) at the door. *burnsparkplayers.org*

★**"Prospect High: Brooklyn": Pioneer High School Theater Guild.** Jan. 29 & 30 and Feb. 6 & 7. Daniel Cantor directs students in Daniel Robert Sullivan's new play based on the experiences of a group of New York City high school students that explores themes of gun violence, trans acceptance, deep friendships, self-harm, and casual racism. The action concerns a day in the life of 4 intelligent students and a comically apathetic teacher and results in a disturbing conclusion. PHS is one of a handful of schools selected to premiere the play outside of New York City. 7:30 p.m., *PHS Schreiber Auditorium*, 601 W. Stadium at Main. Tickets \$12 (students, seniors, & PHS staff, \$8) in advance at *showtix4u.com*. *ptguild.org*. 994-2191.

★**"Wine, Women, and Song XIV": Kerrytown Concert House.** Jan. 29-31 and Feb. 5 & 6. An elegant evening of jazz, classical, and cabaret songs showcasing noted local women singers, accompanied by pianist R. Mackenzie Lewis. Singers include Deanna Relyea, Linda Beaupre, Sue Booth, Carolyn Burnstein, Shelley MacMillan, Susan Shipman, Wendy Bloom, Monica Swartout-Bebow, Roxy Diederich, and Kathy Waugh. Lisa Tucker-Gray directs. Wine is served. This popular event usually sells out. 8 p.m. (Jan. 29 & 30 and Feb. 5 & 6) and 3 p.m. (Jan. 31),

KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$20-\$50. Reservations recommended. *kerrytownconcerthouse*, 769-2999.

★**"An Evening of Scenes": U-M Residential College Players.** Jan. 29 & 30. RC students direct and perform this popular semiannual 90-minute program of 4-6 brief comic sketches written by RC students. 8 p.m., 1324 East Hall, 525 East University. Free. 647-4354.

★**"The Electric Baby": Kickshaw Theatre.** See 28 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"The Odd Couple": Purple Rose Theatre Company.** See 21 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Pointless Improv": Pointless Brewery & Theatre.** See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

★**Ricardo Flanagan: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 28 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★**"Fire and Ice Tango Festival": Michigan Argentine Tango Club.** Jan. 29-Feb. 1 (different locations). This annual festival of afternoon tango workshops and evening dances kicks off tonight with a dance party. See *umich.edu/~matc* for workshop schedule and pricing. 9 p.m.-midnight, *Campus Chapel*, 1236 Washtenaw. \$15 (Fri.) & \$10 (all other days); \$5 discount for students. *umich.edu/~matc*

## 30 SATURDAY

★**"Little Peeps Playground": Pointless Brewery & Theatre.** See 2 Saturday. 10:30 a.m.

★**"Storytime at the Museum": UMMA.** U-M student docents and UMMA staffers read stories related to the current exhibit, *Come as You Are: Art of the 1990s*. Followed by an art activity. For kids ages 4-7 accompanied by a parent. Siblings welcome. 11:15 a.m.-noon, *UMMA* (meet in front of the museum store), 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

★**"Turandot": Metropolitan Opera (Fathom Events).** Live broadcast (Jan. 30) and rebroadcast (Feb. 3) of the Met's production of Puccini's popular opera set in ancient China. Prince Calaf falls in love with the cold Princess Turandot, whose riddles prove too difficult for her suitors. When Calaf passes her tests, she still refuses to marry him, but he turns the tables and lays before her a challenge in the famous tenor aria "Nessun dorma." 12:55 p.m. (Jan. 30) & 6:30 p.m. (Feb. 3), *Quality 16* (3686 Jackson) & *Rave* (4100 Carpenter). Tickets \$18-\$23 (discounts for seniors & children) in advance at *fathomevents.com*. 623-7469 (Quality 16) & 973-8424 (Rave).

★**World Wetland Day: Ann Arbor Parks Department.** All invited to help city parks natural area preservation staff restore the wetlands in *Bandemer Nature Area* by removing invasive shrubs. Wear pants and closed-toe shoes. Tools and know-how provided. Snacks. 1-3 p.m., meet in the 2nd parking lot, *Whitmore Lake Rd.* entrance off N. Main. Free. 996-3266.

★**Yo-Yo Master Zeemo: Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.** Jan. 30 & 31. Performance by this local kids entertainer. 1-3:30 p.m., *AAHOM Legacy Gallery*, 220 E. Ann. \$12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995-5439.

★**"Pocket Handwarmers": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to sew fabric pouches that you can pop into a microwave to convert into a handwarmer. 1-2 p.m., *AADL Malletts Creek Branch*, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-8301.

★**Gaming Tournaments: Ann Arbor District Library.** Jan. 30 & 31. Video game tournaments. Prizes. Jan. 30: "Smash Bros U." For grades 6-12. Jan. 31: "Splatoon: Hyperlocal Splatfest." For all ages. 1-4 p.m., *AADL 4th-floor meeting room*, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★**Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** All seniors invited to celebrate the legacy of MLK with inspirational, soul-stirring music. The program includes presentations TBA. Refreshments. 1-3 p.m., *Turner Senior Resource Center*, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

★**"Chinese New Year Celebration": Ann Arbor District Library.** With Lion and Ribbon Dance performances. Participants can learn to use a *yaogu* drum, do a Chinese craft, and take home a Chinese treat. 2-3:30 p.m., *AADL multipurpose room* (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★**Horn Studio Recital: U-M School of Music.** Freshman horn students of Adam Unsworth and Bryan Kennedy perform solo and ensemble works TBA. 2 p.m., *U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall*, 1100 Baites (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

★**39th Annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival: The Ark.** See 29 Friday. Tonight's headliner is Joan Baez, who two nights ago hosted an all-star show celebrating her 75th birthday at the Beacon Theatre in NYC. This pioneering folk diva still possesses the gifts that made her famous: the lofty, crystalline yet deep-bodied, hauntingly elegiac voice; an ability to inhabit the emotional center of whatever song she is singing; and an aptitude for blending humanistic propaganda and entertainment in a single package. Also appearing: **Cooder-White-Skaggs** is the recently formed all-star ensemble of roots-music guitar virtuoso **Ry Cooder**, renowned bluegrass singer and mandolinist **Ricky Skaggs**, and his wife **Sharon White**, the lead singer of the legendary country vocal group the Whites. Former Steppin' in It frontman **Joshua Davis** is an Americana folk-rock singer-songwriter. **Alan Doyle & the Beautiful Gypsies.** Newfoundland folk-rock ensemble led by former Great Big Sea frontman Doyle whose songs are rousing upbeat explorations of the expressive resources of the Celtic and other traditional influences he grew up with. **Darlingside** is a Boston-area acoustic folk-rock quartet whose music uses a mix of classical, bluegrass, and rock instrumentation to support enchanting 4-part vocal arrangements that draw on the vocabularies of folk, retro-pop, barbershop, and chamber music. **Rose Cousins** is a pop-folk singer-songwriter from Halifax known for achingly candid, elegantly understated lyrics and richly nuanced vocals. **The Accidentals** are a wildly acclaimed nationally touring Traverse City alt-folk ensemble fronted by multi-instrumentalists (and high school seniors) Katie Larson and Savannah Buist. With their new percussionist, Michael Dause. Emcee is longtime Ark favorite **John McCutcheon**, a hammered-dulcimer virtuoso whose repertoire features all forms of Appalachian music, from Sacred Harp songs and traditional ballads to buoyant hoedowns, contemporary songs, and originals. 6:30 p.m.

★**18th Annual Hometown Concert: Chelsea House Orchestra.** This touring ensemble of some 2 dozen Chelsea High School students plays traditional Scottish and Irish jigs and reels, along with other folk-inspired music and even some rock 'n' roll. Opening act is the Beach (Middle School) Fiddle Club. Also, an afterglow to visit with current and past CHO musicians. 7 p.m., *Chelsea High School Auditorium*, 740 N. Freer (between Old US-12 and Washington St.), *Chelsea*. Tickets \$10 (students & seniors, \$5) in advance at *Chelsea Pharmacy* & tickets@chelseahouseorchestra.org, and at the door. 475-1957.

★**"My Fair Lady": Burns Park Players.** See 29 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

★**"Prospect High: Brooklyn": Pioneer High School Theater Guild.** See 29 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

★**"Wine, Women, and Song XIV": Kerrytown Concert House.** See 29 Friday. 8 p.m.

★**"The Odd Couple": Purple Rose Theatre Company.** See 21 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★**"An Evening of Scenes": U-M Residential College Players.** See 29 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"The Electric Baby": Kickshaw Theatre.** See 28 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**Ricardo Flanagan: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 28 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★**"Pointless Improv": Pointless Brewery & Theatre.** See 1 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★**"Fire and Ice Tango Festival": Michigan Argentine Tango Club.** See 29 Friday. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. at the Michigan Union Ballroom and 1:30-5:30 a.m. at the Pittsfield Grange (3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.).

## 31 SUNDAY

★**"7th Annual Preschool Expo": Ann Arbor District Library/Child Care Network/U-M Work/Life Resource Center/Washtenaw Success by 6 Great Start Collaborative.** Representatives from area preschools are on hand to answer questions from parents of prospective preschoolers. 1-4 p.m., *Palmer Commons*, 100 Washtenaw (across from Palmer Field). Free. 327-8301.

★**"Sedge Meadow Winter Botany": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to learn about the winter form of sedges, wild ryes, nannyberry, and other plants found in this wetland along the Huron River. 2-4 p.m., *Osborne Mill Preserve*, park on E. Delhi Rd., off Huron River Dr., just south of Delhi Metro Park. Free. *stonerf@ewashtenaw.org*; 971-6337, ext. 334.

★**"The Odd Couple": Purple Rose Theatre Company.** See 21 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"Wine, Women, and Song XIV": Kerrytown Concert House.** See 29 Friday. 3 p.m.

★**Michael Burkhardt: EMU Music Department.** Recital by this EMU organ professor. 4 p.m., *Pease Auditorium*, EMU campus. W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

★**"The Electric Baby": Kickshaw Theatre.** See 28 Thursday. 4 & 7:30 p.m.

★**Michigan Chamber Players: U-M School of Music.** This ad hoc ensemble of U-M music professors performs works TBA. 7 p.m., *U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall*, 1100 Baites (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615-3204.

★**"The Open Stage": Pointless Brewery & Theatre.** See 3 Sunday. 7 p.m.

★**"Fire and Ice Tango Festival": Michigan Argentine Tango Club.** See 29 Friday. 1-4 p.m. at the Michigan Union Pendleton Room and 9 p.m.-midnight at the Michigan Union Ballroom.

The Winter 2016 Roy A. Ruppaport Lectures:

## "COMMUNICATION & ENCHANTMENT"

This series of four public lectures by Alaina Lemon, based on her book manuscript **Communication & Enchantment** examines the idea of utopian communication and how the Cold War fascination with the workings and the failures of communication, mediation, and contact may yet mark struggles to frame events, infuse theoretical models of communication, and generate practical technologies for intuition.

Lectures will be held in the **Rackham Assembly Hall**, 4th Floor, Rackham Building, 915 E Washington

**"Technologies for Intuition"**

Friday, January 22 at 3PM

**"Enchanting Static"**

Friday, February 19 at 3PM

**"Bureaucratic Mesmerism"**

Friday, March 11 at 3PM

**"Breaking Spells"**

Friday, April 15 at 3PM



**Alaina Lemon** is a Professor in the Department of Anthropology, and serves as Director of the Interdepartmental Doctorate Program in Anthropology and History at the University of Michigan. She received the PhD in Anthropology in 1996 from the University of Chicago, and has conducted archival and ethnographic fieldwork in Russia since 1988. Her first book, *Between Two Fires: Gypsy Performance and Romani Memory from Pushkin to Post-Socialism* (Duke, 2000) received in 2001 the AAASS Wayne S. Vucinich Book Award, and the AAASS Heldt Book prize. A forthcoming book, *Technologies of Intuition* tracks ways that Cold War anxieties about mental influence and excessive contact continue to alternate with utopian dreams of communion.

For more information [www.lsa.umich.edu/anthro](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/anthro)  
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### CALL TO ACTION

Progressive-minded Catholic Community working together for equality & justice. Local branch of national group. Meets last Sunday each month at Genesis, 2309 Packard, at 1:00. Next meeting: January 31. (734) 975-4632. All welcome! [www.cta-wc.org](http://www.cta-wc.org)

## Miscellaneous

The Classifieds deadline for the February issue is January 11.

### I SPY CONTEST

Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 83? If you can, you could win a \$25 check made out to any business advertising in this issue. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, January 11. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, AA 48103. Fax: 769-3375; email: [backpage@aaobserver.com](mailto:backpage@aaobserver.com) (put I Spy in the subject line).

### FAKE AD CONTEST

Can you find the fake ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue! One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon January 11. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: [backpage@aaobserver.com](mailto:backpage@aaobserver.com) or write to: 2390 Winewood, AA 48103.

## Services

The Classifieds deadline for the February issue is January 11.

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Please include your name and contact information.

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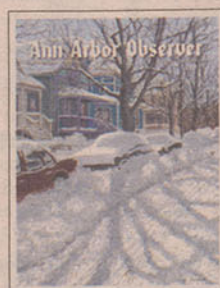
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## MARKET UPDATE - January 2016

Wow!! What a year in Real Estate. The 2015 selling season is winding down and this year may go on the books as the strongest year ever for Ann Arbor real estate. Driven by demand to live in our wonderful community and outstanding neighborhoods, home values reached their highest level ever in many areas. 2016 will bring more of the same. Are you thinking of buying or selling in 2016? Call me today for a private consultation, 734-476-7100.

**SELLERS** - The value of your home is at its highest level since 2007. Demand for your home is at the highest level since 2004. But this market is far from "easy". The issues of pricing, managing multiple offers, and successfully appraising the home with the buyer's lender are more complex than ever. It takes an experienced agent with an effective strategy to successfully sell your home and get it closed. Please call me to discuss your situation today. 734-476-7100.

**BUYERS** - Word on the street is that there are no quality homes to buy. Somehow I manage to lead the county in closed buyer sales year to date. I have been successful in finding the best homes available for most of my buyers (not all, sorry). The process of home selection, offer strategy, and financing are a challenge. You need an experienced agent in your corner to find the right house and successfully close. Call me today to start your search. 734-476-7100.

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**HUNTERS RIDGE** - Very sharp 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath custom-built home on a quiet cul-de-sac lot backing to trees. This home has been perfectly cared for and nicely updated. Features include open concept floor plan, family room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, updated kitchen, first floor den, luxury master suite, and finished lower level with large rec space. The backyard features wonderful outdoor living area. \$434,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**DIUBLE MEADOWS** - Custom-built 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath colonial on a spacious 3/4-acre lot in one of Saline schools most desired neighborhood. Great setting with large deck, extensive landscaping, and huge backyard. The interior of this home sparkles. Features include open concept living with spacious maple kitchen with stainless steel appliances, large family room with fireplace, great formal living and dining rooms, luxury master suite with vaulted ceiling, walk-in closet, and bath, and three large kids' bedrooms. \$389,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**PATTENGILL ELEMENTARY** - Charming 4-bedroom, 2-bath cape on a quiet cul-de-sac lot in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. This is a great setting with mature trees, large backyard, and lots of privacy. The interior is move-in ready and features welcoming living room, large kitchen, family room/sunroom with fireplace, large flex-use bedrooms, and two full baths. \$319,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**LINCOLN SCHOOLS** - This quality built 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath ranch rests on one of the most beautiful 7-acre settings you will see. You will fall in love with the first impression this home presents. Enjoy mature trees, wildlife, and expansive lawn all surrounded by gorgeous mature landscaping. The interior is sharp and includes large living room, nice bedrooms, and finished basement. Additional 30 x 54 pole barn. \$279,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**NEW LISTING - SALINE** - Wonderful 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch walking distance to downtown Saline. This nicely cared for home rests in one of Saline's most desired neighborhoods. Features include private backyard, 2 car garage, hardwood floors, open kitchen design, and finished basement. You will love it! \$169,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**ANN ARBOR** - Stunning 4-bedroom, 6 1/2-bath custom-built home. Just minutes from U-M hospitals, central campus, and all freeways. This home represents the finest design, materials, and craftsmanship you will see on the market today. The resort-like setting includes extensive landscaping, an in-ground pool, and an outdoor kitchen. The interior is highlighted by the two-story barrel ceiling great room, gourmet kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished lower level. \$1,995,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**NEW LISTING - BURNS PARK** - Incredible 6-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath Mission-style two-story perfectly preserved and nicely updated. This is one of the most stately homes you will ever find with a gorgeous lot and extensive landscaping. The interior oozes old charm, including incredible moldings and trim work throughout. Highlights include remodeled kitchen with custom cabinets and granite counters tops, large living room with fireplace, sunroom, and finished third floor suite. \$1,250,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**SALINE** - This stunning 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath 2003 Showcase of Homes entry represents the finest combination of design, materials, and workmanship on the market today. Incredible setting includes manicured grounds, extensive landscaping, oversized patio, and a stream with two waterfalls. The interior is a showpiece. Features include hardwood floors throughout, upgraded trim and molding, great room with stacked stone fireplace, gourmet kitchen with Viking appliances, luxury first floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$1,200,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**SALINE** - Stunning 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath, custom-built home on a gorgeous 3-acre+ setting overlooking the Saline River. You will not find a more striking home or setting on the market today. Park-like setting includes extensive landscaping, paver patio, and circle drive. The interior is a showpiece with design, craftsmanship, and materials. Highlights include oversized cherry kitchen with granite, great room with wall of glass, luxury first floor master bedroom, and finished walkout basement. \$899,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**ALL SPORTS LAKEFRONT ESTATE** - Incredible private estate features 20-acres of gorgeous woodlands and frontage on all-sports, private Putnam Lake in Pinckney. This is a rare opportunity to find a magnificent custom-built home on a secluded waterfront estate. 4-bedroom, 3-bath ranch with stunning lake views from every room in the house. Features include large great room with fieldstone fireplace, open concept kitchen with granite counter, first floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. Additional guest cottage makes this a great family gathering place. \$899,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**SALINE** - Gorgeous 3-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath, custom-built ranch on 74+ rolling acres just west of Saline. Incredible setting with 60-acres of tillable land, plus woods and a pole barn. The home is top quality throughout and features welcoming great room, oversized cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, sunroom, luxury first floor master suite, and spacious finished walkout basement with two rec rooms, wet bar, and full bath. \$799,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS** - Stunning 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath, on a spacious acre lot in one of Saline's most desired neighborhoods. This home has been completely renovated in the past 5 years. It's gorgeous!! Great lot features extensive landscaping, large patio, and in-ground pool. The interior features custom cherry kitchen with granite and high-end appliances, cherry floors, family room with fireplace, oversized sunroom, luxury master suite with remodeled bath and sitting room, and finished basement. \$779,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**CENTENNIAL PARK** - Dramatic 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath, custom-built home in one of Saline schools most desired neighborhoods. Walk to Harvest Elementary and Saline High School from this most convenient location. This home is loaded with custom extras. Features include two-story great room, cherry kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances, sunroom, den, luxury master suite, and great kids' bedrooms. \$619,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**MATHIEA FARMS** - Gorgeous 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath Hobbs and Black designed, contemporary ranch on a private 1.5-acre lot in one of Ann Arbor's most sought after neighborhoods. The setting features extensive landscaping, screened porch, and large deck. The interior has been completely renovated and features hardwood floors throughout, striking great room with wall of glass to the backyard, gourmet kitchen with granite, luxury first floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$599,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**KING SCHOOL** - Very sharp 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath contemporary home with your own private path to King Elementary. Wonderful setting with mature trees, two decks, and large grassy area. The interior of this home has had many updates. Highlights include living and dining rooms with high vaulted ceilings, walls of glass, Brazilian cherry floor, and full height fireplace, large kitchen with vaulted ceiling, large master suite with remodeled bath, large kids' rooms, flex use study could be 4th bedroom, and lower level family room. \$579,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



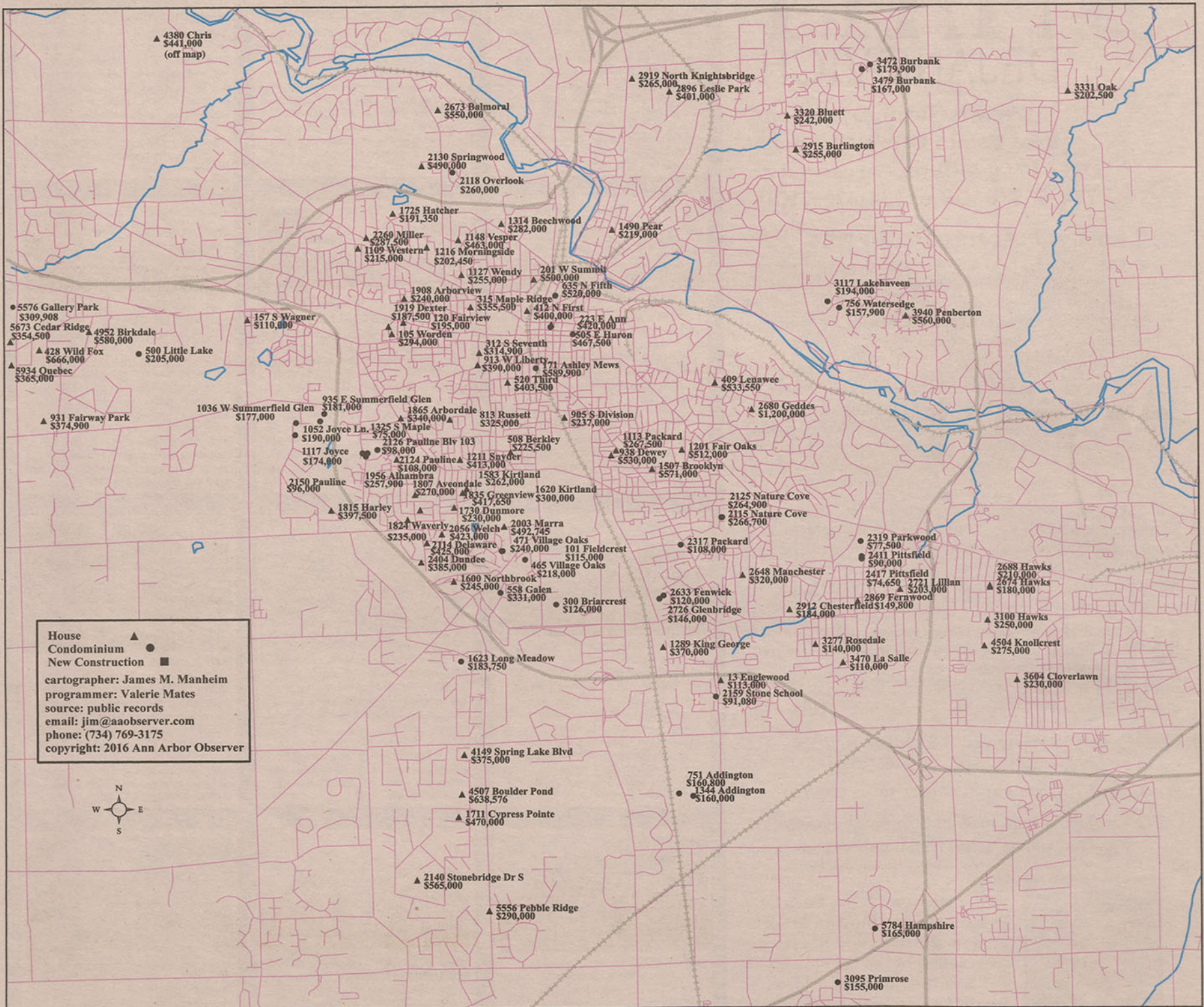
**NEW LISTING - YORK PLACE** - Very nice 5-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath colonial on a quiet cul-de-sac lot, featuring huge backyard and wonderful in-ground pool. Great setting in one of Saline's most desired neighborhoods. The interior of this home sparkles. Features include extensive hardwood flooring, open concept floor plan, maple kitchen with granite counter tops, large family room, great master suite, nice sized kids' bedrooms, and finished basement with rec room, bedroom, and bath. \$454,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**RIVERWOOD** - Very sharp 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath colonial in one of Ann Arbor's most sought after neighborhoods, walking distance to Wines Elementary. Great setting featuring large deck, extensive landscaping, and great backyard. The interior of this home sparkles. Features include open concept floor plan, large kitchen with hardwood floor, family room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, first floor den, luxury master suite, and great kids' bedrooms. \$449,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



# NOVEMBER 2015 HOME SALES



The real estate market has been volatile and unpredictable, with huge appreciations in price in some areas while other neighborhoods struggle to regain their mid-2000s high-water marks, if even

those. And volatility gives local assessors a headache: they're not allowed to consider qualitative factors like whether a neighborhood is currently hot.

To see how they're doing, we took a snapshot of the market, comparing the prices homes sold for in November to assessors' estimates of their value. Michigan law specifies that a home's SEV (state equalized value) should be half its market value. So we doubled the assessment for each home sold and divided the result by the home's selling price.

When we did a yearlong study in the go-go year of 2002, assessments were lagging far behind selling prices. Not a single assessment reached 100 percent on our scale, and only a few dozen exceeded 85 percent.

November's sales came much closer to the assessors' estimates. Assessments fell into the sweet-spot zone, between 85 and 115 percent of the selling price, accounted for forty-five of eighty-five sales in Ann Arbor, six of thirteen in Scio Town-

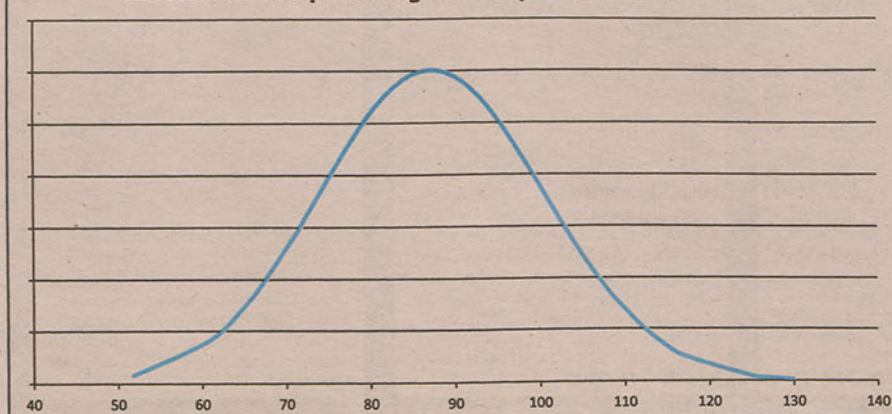
ship, and an impressive fourteen of sixteen in Pittsfield Township.

Have assessment methods gotten that much more accurate? Maybe, but our data suggest another explanation: since 2002, the center of our bell curve has shifted so that the fattest part lies right around the 100 percent mark. Quite a few assessments—twenty-three of 112—came in at 100 percent or more, selling at or below the assessors' estimate.

Low-end condos and starter homes were especially likely to fall short of assessors' values. Ann Arbor has had a degree of immunity to national housing trends, but our housing price recovery is starting to look much like the one happening nationally: the house-rich get richer, on paper at least, while the lower end has been much slower to benefit.

—James M. Manheim

Assessment as a percentage of sale price, November 2015







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## 252 Homes Sold in 2015

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### Superior Township

Sprawling ranch on 3.5 acres in the prestigious Glennborough neighborhood. Master suite with jumbo closets, flex room, and private passage to the library. 3-car attached garage, plus huge detached designed for the car buff. **\$1,150,000**



### Ann Arbor

Fantastic detail throughout this completely renovated Frank Lloyd Wright style home. Cherry kitchen with the best of everything. Generous use of limestone and marble. Gorgeous professional landscaping. **\$1,150,000**



### Ann Arbor

Backing to 40 acres of woods, this custom 6 bedroom home offers stunning views. Library with 12' ceilings, built-ins & granite counters. Vaulted first floor owner's suite. Finished walk-out, covered patio, and large deck. **\$895,000**



### Ann Arbor

Magnificent setting for this ranch on 4 wooded acres with walking trails. A wall of sliding doors in the vaulted living room showcase the picturesque setting. Finished walk-out lower level has a family room with fireplace. **\$850,000**



### South Lyon

Surrounded by privacy, this exquisite home sits on nearly 2 wooded acres with 335' of frontage on all-sports Sandy Bottom Lake. Living room is great for entertaining with hardwood floors, vaulted pine ceiling, and fireplace. **\$799,900**



### Pinckney

With a secluded location, surrounded by stunning gardens, this private retreat was renovated with an artist's touch. Fantastic tile, slate, woodwork, stained glass, and incredible finishes. Baseline Lake access. **\$595,000**



### Ann Arbor

Situated on 6.4 acres, this custom ranch is just minutes to downtown Ann Arbor and Brighton. Large windows throughout bring the light and nature in. Four-season sunroom opens to the deck for easy entertaining. **\$525,000**



### Ann Arbor

Take in the spectacular views of downtown Ann Arbor from this trendy corner unit in the famed Liberty Lofts! Walls of windows in the living room and kitchen. Granite counters, stainless appliances, hardwood floors and balcony. **\$398,000**



### Dexter

Authentic 4 bedroom, 2 bath log home nestled on 6.5 private wooded acres, just a mile from downtown Dexter. Enjoy the up north feel from the covered porch or stroll along one of the trails. Includes a separate studio. **\$369,900**



### Ann Arbor

Fresh paint, fresh carpet, newly refinished basement...the list goes on! Located in popular Country French Estates, this spacious 'Cabernet' model backs to a tree line for added privacy. Vaulted great room with fireplace. **\$329,900**



### Brighton

Everything has been done! This 4 bedroom Knollwood Hills home shows like a model. Beautifully updated kitchen with granite counters, glass tile backsplash, and stainless appliances. Finished, daylight lower level. **\$309,900**



### Dexter

Located on a quiet cul-de-sac backing to a wooded area, this well maintained 3 bedroom home in Huron Farms is ready to move into. Large kitchen opens to a cozy great room with a fireplace. Professionally finished walk-out. **\$299,900**



### Ann Arbor

Unbeatable location in the Wildwood Park neighborhood just 1 mile from Main St. This charming 4 bedroom, 2 bath home backs to a wooded ravine for added privacy. Hardwood floors, built-ins, fireplace, and sunroom. **\$295,000**



### Ann Arbor

Classic, 4 bedroom Georgetown colonial with so much living space! Formal living and dining rooms. Vaulted family room with cozy fireplace opens to the large deck and mature backyard. Updated full bath and finished basement. **\$285,000**



### Ann Arbor

Wooded views from this end unit at Balmoral Park. Bright and open floorplan offers vaulted ceilings, fresh paint, new carpet, 2 bedrooms and 2 baths. Kitchen has granite, cherry cabinets, and stainless appliances. Attached garage. **\$259,900**



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# Back Page

## i spy KILLING

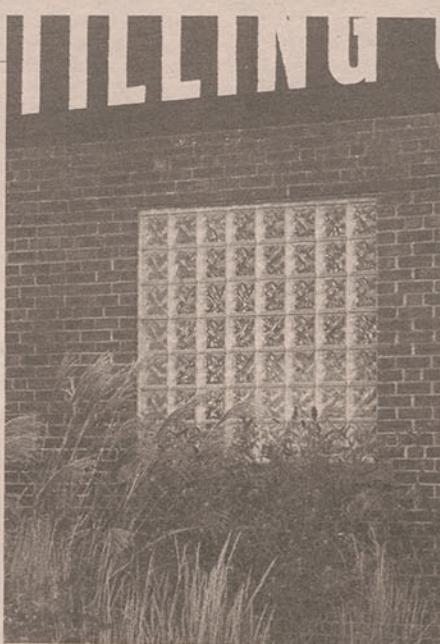
by Sally Bjork

"I found it!" exclaims Alex Marsh regarding the skull-and-crossbones architectural detail featured in December. "Creepy." "The skull is above the door to MAKE Art Studio located at 215½ S. Main Street," writes Cathy Chow—"on the building that houses Urban Jewelers and Footprints," writes Mark Stefaniak.

This detail—along with the Templar cross on the window below it—is a symbol of Freemasonry. "The emblem in the photo is there because the third floor was the second Masonic Hall in Ann Arbor," relays Tom Jameson, who adds, the "building was originally designed as a two-story structure, but the third floor was added to be used by the Masonic bodies."



The neighboring Vault of Midnight boasts a skull logo, but that's completely coincidental—it was adopted before the comic-book store moved to



### New spirit in town

Main St., and is unrelated to the Freemasonry skull emblem.

Mark Stefaniak won our random drawing from among seven correct entries. He'll enjoy his \$25 gift certificate at the Common Grill in Chelsea.

To enter this month's contest, identify the photo above and send your answer to the address below.

by Jay Forstner

More than 150 of you clever Fake Adders—154, to be exact—correctly identified the Fake Ad for Beta Vulgaris Extract on page 92 of the December Observer.

Many of you pointed out that Beta Vulgaris is the scientific name for the sugar beet, so its crystallized extract would be good old-fashioned sugar. "Beetroot extract is indeed suggested to reduce stress," wrote David Cook.

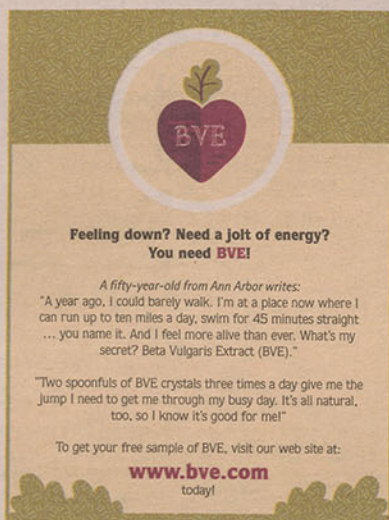
"Whether it would add muscle and endurance is another matter. Think I'll wait for more studies on the effects of BVE."

"Too bad it isn't real!" wrote Liz Downs. "'It's all natural, too, so I know it's good for me!'" Hilarious. Thanks for the laugh."

The entries also included at least one first-time contestant. "Wow, I can't believe I spotted it this time," wrote Karen Lin. "This is the first time ever I've actually been able to find it! I probably noticed it because I could use a jolt of energy!"

Our winner was Kathy Rich. She's taking her gift certificate to Spun.

To enter this month's contest, find the fake ad and follow the instructions in the box below. The fake ad always contains the name of last month's winner in some form.



To enter either contest, send email with the subject "Fake Ad" or "I Spy" to backpage@aaobserver.com. Mail: 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. All correct entries received by noon on Monday, January 11, will be eligible for this month's random drawings. Winners will receive \$25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue.

# THANKS!

We extend a sincere thank you to our new Observer friends!

We appreciate your financial support.

Thanks also to readers who responded to our request for **FREE** subscription confirmations.

**Congratulations** to the lucky winners of our December drawing!

The following readers won a **\$25 gift certificate** to their choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

**December winners:**  
**Herbert P. and Mary H.**

If you would like to be entered in the January drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue, check out the information on page 76, and submit your Observer Friend or Free Subscription confirmation by January 11.

Thanks!  
Observer Staff

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Become an Observer Friend—or subscribe to AnnArborObserver.com—and help us continue to deliver our in-depth reporting, interesting profiles, and comprehensive calendar free to every resident of Ann Arbor.

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# Events at a Glance



An all-star trio of singer and mandolinist Ricky Skaggs, vocalist Sharon White, and guitarist Ry Cooder are at the Ann Arbor Folk Festival Jan. 30.

Daily Events listings begin on p.49. Films: p. 51. Galleries: p. 61. Nightspots begin on p. 46.

### Concert Music

*classical, religious, cabaret*

- "What's in a Song?" (UMS choral program), Jan. 8
- Mezzo-soprano Jamie Barton, Jan. 10
- Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Jan. 11
- Admiral Launch Duo (chamber), Jan. 14
- Out Loud Chorus, Jan. 15
- "Mozart Birthday Bash" (Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra), Jan. 16
- Ann Arbor Concert Band, Jan. 17
- Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Jan. 22
- Aaron Berofsky & Joseph Gascho (early music), Jan. 23
- Organist Aaron Tan, Jan. 29
- "Wine, Women, and Song" (Kerrytown Concert House), Jan. 29–31
- Chelsea House Orchestra, Jan. 30

### Vernacular Music

*pop, rock, jazz, & traditional*

See Nightspots, p. 46, for shows at the Ark, Blind Pig, & other clubs

- Perrin Grace's AMP Trio (jazz), Jan. 3
- Singer-songwriter Mark Croft, Jan. 6
- Juggernaut Jug Band, Jan. 8
- Harmonica wiz Peter Madcat Ruth, Jan. 9 & 19
- Saxophonist Timothy McAllister & bass trombonist Randall Hawes (jazz), Jan. 12
- Tumbao Bravo (Cuban jazz), Jan. 13
- Dobbins/Krahnke/Weed Trio (jazz), Jan. 17
- Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, Jan. 20
- San, Emily & Jacob (folk), Jan. 22
- Finvarra's Wren (Irish & Scottish), Jan. 23
- "Ragtime Extravaganza," Jan. 23
- Vocalist Lisa Fischer, Jan. 27

### Theater, Opera, & Dance

- A Christmas Carol (National Theatre of Scotland), Jan. 1–3
- Company (Civic Theatre), Jan. 7–10
- "FutureStars 2016" (AAPS high schools), Jan. 15, 16, & 23
- 64th Annual Faculty & Guest Artist Choreography Concert (EMU Dance), Jan. 15–17
- Avenue Q (Dexter Community Players), Jan. 15–17, 22, & 23
- Les Pêcheurs de Perles (Metropolitan Opera broadcast), Jan. 16 & 20
- Hamlet (National Theatre broadcast), Jan. 17
- Untitled Feminist Show (Young Jean Lee), Jan. 21 & 22

- The Odd Couple (Purple Rose), every Wed.–Sun., Jan. 21–Mar. 26
- Straight White Men (Young Jean Lee), Jan. 22 & 23
- Jane Eyre (National Theatre broadcast), Jan. 24
- The Electric Baby (Kickshaw), Jan. 28–31
- My Fair Lady (Burns Park Players), Jan. 29 & 30
- Prospect High: Brooklyn (Pioneer High), Jan. 29 & 30
- Turandot (Metropolitan Opera broadcast), Jan. 30

### Comedy, Storytelling, & Performance Art

- Comic Joe List, Dec. 2
- "Ann Arbor 50 First Jokes," Jan. 4
- Comic Matt Broussard, Jan. 7–9
- Comic Keith Alberstadt, Jan. 14–16
- Comic Matt Braunger, Jan. 21–23
- Comic Ricarlo Flanagan, Jan. 28–30

### Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Saline "Winterfest," Jan. 22 & 23
- Ann Arbor Folk Festival, Jan. 29 & 30

### Lectures, Readings, & Forums

- Essayist Thomas Lynch, Jan. 4
- Novelist Rebecca Scherm, Jan. 6
- Poet C.S. Giscombe, Jan. 7
- Novelists Maggie Shipstead & Jennifer DuBois, Jan. 14
- Novelist Bette Adriaanse, Jan. 16
- U-M MLK Symposium events, Jan. 18 & 19
- Poet Denise Miller, Jan. 19
- Poet Anne Carson, Jan. 21
- Poet Holly Painter, Jan. 22
- Fiction writer & poet Marge Piercy, Jan. 26
- Poets John F. Buckley & Kim D. Hunter, Jan. 27
- Memoirist R.J. Fox, Jan. 27
- Memoirist Paul Lisicky, Jan. 29

### Miscellaneous

- 64th Annual Ann Arbor City Dodgeball Tournament, Jan. 16
- Harlem Globetrotters, Jan. 22

### Family & Kids' Stuff

- "Little Peeps PlayGround" (Pointless Brewery & Theatre), every Sat.
- Justin Roberts & the Not Ready for Naptime Players, Jan. 23

### "Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- "Pointless Improv" (Pointless Brewery & Theatre), every Fri. & Sat.



FOR MORE INFO: [pennystampsevents.org](http://pennystampsevents.org)

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JANUARY 21  
**YOUNG JEAN LEE**  
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JANUARY 28  
**DAN GOODS**  
NASA visual strategist



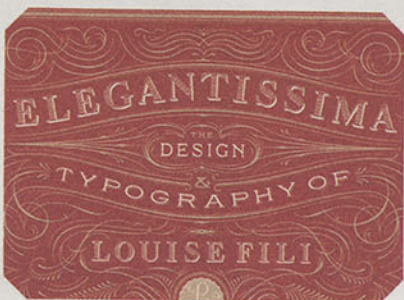
\*JANUARY 29  
**ISHINOMAKI LAB**  
community revitalization / design



FEBRUARY 4  
**RASHAAD NEWSOME**  
composer, collagist & conductor



FEBRUARY 11  
**LOUISE FILI**  
graphic designer



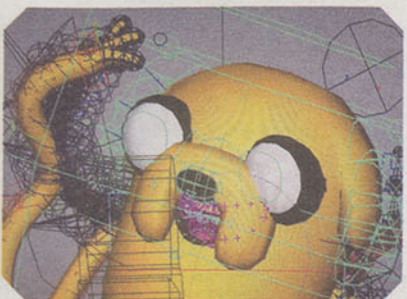
FEBRUARY 18  
**PATRICIA URQUIOLA**  
product designer & architect



MARCH 10  
**GURUDUTH BANAVAR**  
big data innovation leader



MARCH 17  
**DAVID OREILLY**  
experimental animator



\*MARCH 21  
**THEATRE OF THE EIGHTH DAY**  
Polish experimental theatre group



MARCH 24  
**ANDREA ZITTEL**  
social practice & design



\*MARCH 28  
**SANDOW BIRK**  
printmaker & illustrator



MARCH 31  
**VIK MUNIZ**  
illusionist & photographer



APRIL 7  
**RENNY RAMAKERS**  
Droog Design Creative Director



## \*SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday, January 29 / Ishinomaki Lab  
6:00 PM / Rackham Amphitheatre  
915 E. Washington St. Ann Arbor

Monday, March 21 / Theatre of the Eighth Day  
5:30 PM / Stamps Auditorium  
Walgreen Drama Center, 1226 Murfin Ann Arbor

Monday, March 28 / Sandow Birk  
5:30 PM / Stern Auditorium  
UMMA, 525 South State St. Ann Arbor

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